



ISSUE 38

WINTER 1994

STAR WARS ROLE-PLAY Blaster Battle Participation

Ann Goetz

Hi, everybody! My name is Ann Goetz and I'm the coordinator for the Forces of the Empire (FOE) Star Wars Role-Play in Lansing. I thought it would be a good idea if I wrote a few words to SE to introduce the SW Role-play to you and to give you information so you can sign up for the event if you wish.

The role-play is very simply a sort of SW "scavenger hunt/let's pretend" game that takes place in the hallways and hotel rooms of the Holiday Inn during MWC. Both sides (Imperials and Rebels) try to gain control of "Port Lansing Space Station" (i.e., the hotel). They do this by achieving goals around the hotel to gain points. The mercenaries (free-spacers, smugglers, and that sort) hire themselves out to whatever side they wish and try to get money for their work. The side with the most points at the end of the weekend wins, and the mercenary with the most money at the end of the weekend wins a prize.

Participating is easy and so are the rules. Everyone who loves SW is welcome. Also, you don't need to "battle" if you wish. In the past, we've had people sign up as "local color" to hang out in the Cantina and just be a part of the atmosphere. Some of the people who've done it in the past subscribe to SE and I'm sure

they would tell you about their experiences.

The first thing you must do to participate is be a member of MediaWest*Con. To do that, you must contact Lori Chapek-Carlton or Gordon Carlton at T'Khutian Press, 200 E. Thomas, Lansing, MI 48910. After you get your registration for the con taken care of, you follow the instructions for creating a character for the role-play and send the form and \$5.00 for cantina refreshments and mailing costs to me at: 103-30 68th Ave. #6B, Forest Hills, NY 11375. At the convention, we set up a cantina in the Imperial (!) Room. When you arrive at the con, come to the Cantina and pick up your packet (which should be there if you sent me the form). We will only be accepting registrations until 5:00 p.m., Friday (the first day of the con). If you will not be present, have someone pick up your packet for you. This year we will not accept late registrations.

Panels will be held on con programming for people who want to know what we're about -- and how to join in on the fun. If you're new, I suggest you come. Pat Grant (President of FOE) and I will run them. A workshop on creating a role-play character will also be scheduled for those people who need a little help

creating characters. These will be listed in the program book for the con. Check 'em out.

We have a mentor program for the Blaster Battle as well, for new people entering the fun. A new person (known as a "rookie") is teamed with a person who's been around a while (known as a "vet"). There will be a special meeting for the Blaster Battle rookies and their mentors to give you a special introduction and to give you some hints on role-playing.

There are several people involved in making this role-play happen. First, of course, are the FOE staffers that are in charge of creating the environment, background, and set for the role-play, as well as make money for the club, and educate people about SW fandom. As FOE's club president, Pat Grant has an awful lot to do at the con, so she's recruited some people to help. I fall under her jurisdiction, as you will see -- just so you know who's in charge around there--

FOE Event Staffers: Pat Grant is in charge of events scheduling, the auction and other stuff (all around goddess). Write to her if you want to help with these things. Her address is: 3271 N. Aurelius #12, Holt, MI 48842.

Role-Play Coordinator: Me -- Ann Goetz. I sign you up and you listen to me bitch and I listen to you bitch. Find my address at the head of this letter.

Cantina Chairs: Joe Littrell and Lynn Walters. If you want to bartend, decorate, or help in any way, please write to them. I'm afraid I don't know Joe's address, but Lynn's is 412 7th Avenue, Apt. #1, Arlington, TX 76013.

Dance and Cantina Music: Joe Lewis will be our DJ for the dance and Season Irwin is compiling some music tapes for the cantina. Contact them if you have any requests or music you'd like to submit. Joe Lewis' address is 1924 W. Morse 3N, Chicago, IL 60626, and Season Irwin's is 7605 Twin Oaks Avenue, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.

For my part, since I was so stressed out this past year, I decided (and everyone decided for me...) that it was time to delegate. As a result, I've enlisted the aid of some new enthusiastic people to help me run the role-play--

Role-Play Staffers: Chris Falcone will be the Judge and Rules Chair. He will be in charge of helping fine-tune the rules and educating the participants and Judges on how to play by the rules. Chris can be reached at 305 Georgetown Ave., Wilmington, DE 19809.

Christine Krebs will be the Scheduled Events Chair.

Scheduled events will include the roast and other events (according to Pat's schedule), the scavenger hunt, as well as the planned skirmishes (the Sunday night battle). This includes creating the goals and arranging for their set up. She will also be designing the tags and money with Seth (her future hubby) Bonder. Christine can be found at 12701 N. Pennsylvania #14, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Carefully read through the character creation process elsewhere in this publication to fill out your form. It should explain the process of creating a persona and registering pretty clearly. If you have questions, you can call me at (718) 896-4318, or write me a note. You can also register for the Battle and not send in your form if you are unsure how to fill it out. If you do not send in a form, though, you will need to fill it out at the workshop. We won't have any other time to help you create your character at the con.

Hope to see you in May!

SW Role-Play: Creating a Character

In this game you have stats and special abilities. In your stats, there are three ranks, Force Rank, Mind Rank, and Weapons Rank. You have 13 points to divide between these three stats. There are many special abilities, of which you must choose at least 3. You have 12 points to divide between your chosen special abilities. Then, for every year this character has appeared in a battle event (not including 1994), add 1 point to either your stats or your special abilities. SIMPLE fractions and decimals (1.5 or 1-1/2) are allowed. We hope this will help you to create a more "well-rounded" character.

Note: 3 is AVERAGE, not 5.

STATS:

Force Rank (FR): Your Force talent. 1=Luke in the middle of ANH. 2=Luke at the end of ANH. 3=Luke in the beginning to ESB. 4=Luke in the middle of ESB. 5=Luke at the end of ESB. 6=Luke at beginning of ROJ. 7=Luke at the end of ROJ. 8=Luke in Zahn books and Vader (all the way through). 9=Emperor/Yoda alive. 10=Yoda, Ben dead.

Mind Rank (MR): Your mental strength. How well you resist interrogation. How well you resist Jedi Mind Tricks. 1=spineless jellyfish. 2=weaker than the average victim. 3=solid average resilience. 4=resistance to a better than average interrogator. 5=resistance to a well-trained interrogator. 6=resistance to a

pretty heavy interrogation by a well-trained interrogator. 7=resistance to a well-trained interrogator with creativity and a spruced up interrogation kit. 8=resistance to a master interrogator with acutriments. 9=you won't break if everyone and everything you love in the universe is being destroyed in front of your face. 10=you won't break if everyone and everything you love in the universe is being destroyed in front of your face while being tortured by a master interrogator with all the acutriments.

Weapons Rank (WR): **You must spend points for a separate rank for each type of fighting ability you or weapon you use!** 1=you can't hit the window on the broad side of a barn (target accuracy at 10 yards). 2=target accuracy at 10-25 yards. 3=target accuracy at 25-50 yards. 4=target accuracy at 75-100 yards. 6=target accuracy at 100-125 yards. 7=target accuracy at 125-150 yards. 8=target accuracy at 150-175 yards. 9=wouldn't miss a playing card turned sideways at 200 yards. 10=you can hit anything at 250 yards. (Remember, 100 yards is a football field, people. Get real!) Acceptable weapons are listed below:

- Lightsaber
- Hand to Hand
- Dagger/Vibroblade
- Poison (must touch victim)
- BI (blunt instrument)
- Lightning (Emperor only)
- Mind Control/Blast (Dr. Tachyon only)
- Blaster (includes all rifles and handguns)

Special Abilities (SA): **You must have at least 3** Your special abilities determine how intelligent your character is in certain areas. 1=you've got a natural talent and it helps only slightly in a pinch. 2=you have a natural talent that has been nurtured with some education. 3=you are generally educated in your field and can use your talent effectively on a daily basis. 4=you have received more than a general education in your field. 5=you are considered a professional--better than highly educated in your field. 6=you are an expert. 7=you are on your way to becoming a master. 8=you are a master. 9=you are considered one of the greatest minds in this field in the entire galaxy. 10=you are the only person alive who can use this ability this well--the best.

Following is a list of suggested abilities:

- Medicine
- Computers
- Demolitions/Munitions

- Spy/Acting/Disguise
- Interrogation
- Security Systems
- Codes/Cryptology
- Engineering/Technology
- Ships/Piloting
- Gambling
- Gift of Gab/Charisma/Diplomacy

If you have another ability (one not listed) talk to me about it. It may be included in the ones listed above. If not, just spend the points for it and discuss it with me at the con.

This is a one-year typical mercenary character:

FR: 0
MR: 4
WR: Blaster: 4, Hand to Hand: 3, Blade: 2
SA: Spy: 3, Security Sys: 2, Codes: 3,
Gambling: 2, Ships Pilot: 3 (2+1 due to 1 year's experience)

This character is above average or competent in most of his abilities, and can hold his own in relation to all the others. He can falsify landing permit documents, break medium security Imperial codes, and play sabacc with Han and Lando without coming away naked.

To have a rank of 7 or above, you should have at least played your character for 3 years. Ranks of 8 and above go to movie personas and people who have played their character for 4 or more years. If you have played your character 5 years or more, it is an "Established Persona", like a Movie Persona. You assign numbers where you want them, and they are approved by the Role-Play Staff, unless you *want* to keep adding them up. That is up to you. In either case, your numbers will be reviewed. Movie Personas will be created by the Role-Play Staff and given to these players at the con.

A 10 is allowed in this game, but there are restrictions. First, you must have played your character for 5 or more years. Then, the rank must be approved by the Role-Play Staff. You can only have a 10 in one category (period). You may not have a 10 in Force Rank, however (unless you are dead).

Note: a workshop is planned for those people who need assistance creating characters! See your program book at MWC.

Mail your filled out form to me, Ann Goetz, 103-30 68th Ave. #6B, Forest Hills, NY 11375. If you have questions, call me at (718) 896-4318. Send \$5.00 money order to my name for Cantina Refreshments.

BLASTER BATTLE REGISTRATION FORM

Please send Money Order for \$5.00 made out to Ann Goetz for Cantina. Fill out one form for each character.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ 1st time at MediaWest*Con? (circle one) yes no

Character's name: _____

of years you have played this character at MediaWest*Con _____

Is this a new character this year? (circle one) yes no

Classification (circle one):

Rebel

Imperial

Renegade

Local Color

Diplomat

Judge

The Press

Mercenary (circle one):

Rebel Aligned

Imp Aligned

Independent

Character's Planet of Origin: _____ Age: _____

Likes (include people) _____

Dislikes (include people) _____

Fears (include people) _____

Proposed Statistics:

Mind Rank (MR):

Force Rank (FR):

Weapons Ranks (WR):

Special Abilities (SA):

Would you like to have a mentor in the buddy system to help you with your role-play experience? yes no

Door sign (if you want your room to be a specific location in Port Lansing Space Station -- your ship, your quarters, etc., please write what you'd want on the sign -- one sign per person, please):

New Fax Services Now Available

Well, as you can see, we made it through another issue. We're down, but we ain't licked!

To lead off, I wanted to tell you about the latest service that I'm happy to be able to offer you. I now have the capability to receive faxes directly into my PC at work. You don't have to send it from another PC (although you can), but can send a document through a regular fax machine and my PC will receive, print and convert it into a document that I can access. Documents which are typed in clear, Courier 10 (or a similar typeface) come across best, although proportional spaced fonts can be read, too -- just not as well. No handwritten documents, though, and handwritten corrections on a page will also not read clearly. The program will *try* to convert them and will send over garbage. If anyone out there would like to try this, please let me know and we'll set up a test session. I can likewise download documents sent via modem. If any of you PC users out there want to try this, let me know and we'll arrange something. You can contact me at work 8:30 to 5:00 CST, Monday through Friday, at (214) 749-4218. I think this is pretty exciting and would like to take advantage of the technology. But do contact me first so that I can set up the proper program and can give you my modem number.

I want to thank everyone who has written in support. You don't know how much that means to me! We're still plugging along post-layoff. Randy still hasn't found another job. He's had a couple of interviews but no job offers.

Current good news is that on January 6, 1994, we paid off the mortgage on our house! Randy was planning on doing that anyway, long before the layoff happened, and had been saving the money for years and years. So, at least we have a roof over our heads, barring unforeseen disaster.

At my job, I am now officially the computer systems administrator, a position that will take full effect this summer when we network our office (tie all

the computers together). It's going to be a busy and challenging spring and summer as I will be involved in the installation and setup of the new system, going to several intensive training classes to learn administrative functions and operation, getting everyone in the office on line, and then managing this massive system. When I saw the proposals for the new system, I expected to see Scotty beaming down anytime now! Wow! Is it the 24th Century already?

Zinewise, I'm slowly getting caught up now that the holidays are past. I have begun printing *Field Studies* #3 and it will be available sometime in late February or early March. In fact, it should be available by the time you get this issue.

TF#8 is creeping along at a snail's pace, but is making progress. Don't know when I'll have it ready, although it won't be for MWC. July or August is a more likely date. We will be getting a scanner here at the office and, once that's in place, I'll be able to utilize it and save myself a lot of keystrokes. But with my workload heating up, there may be less and less time to work on the zines. I'll just have to see what the future brings. I sure don't want to have to abandon them, since they give me so much pleasure to do, but they're definitely going to have to go on a when-they-get-done schedule.

We also have a new member of our household -- a kitten. His arrival was unplanned, however. On December 23, we were coming home from shopping and stopped at a traffic sign. Katy said, "Mom, look, there's a kitten out there!" Sure enough a little white kitten was out in the median strip, obviously lost and in danger of getting run over. We picked him up and brought him home with us, then went back the next day and went to houses in the area to see if we could find who he belonged to. No one claimed him so we put up signs on telephone poles, but no one ever called us. I tried to find someone to take him, but everyone I talked to already had as many cats as they wanted,

so... We now seem to be cat owners. I guess we were destined to find him. He really is a sweet kitty. He's solid white with light blue eyes and we have named him Snow. I estimate he's about 5 months old now. He had obviously been well taken care of -- fat and healthy and clean, except for some grease (he must have been hiding under a car at some point). But there's no telling where he came from, whether he got out of someone's home or if some cruel person tossed him out. In any case, we've grown attached to him and our main problem is getting our two German shepherds to accept him. Cruiser just sniffed at him and seemed to say, "Okay, no problem" and strolled away. Wolf is taking longer, but cat and dog have agreed on a mutual non-aggression treaty and, while still giving each other the "eye", are living in more or less peaceable co-existence. I hope to run a picture of him fairly soon, probably in the next issue.

Regarding the next issue, there will be another long interval. I have set the deadline for SE#39 for June 30, 1994. That will give everyone time to recover from and report on MWC plus will take some pressure off of me during a time when I will have enough pressure to deal with!

We're still hoping to be at MWC. Don't forget that we'll be hosting the SE Hospitality Suite this year and the Annual SE Party will be held there. Hopefully this will give us enough room that we won't have to carry on in the hall, like last year. I will be asking for donations for munchies so we can all feed our faces during the weekend.

I have also been discussing with various people the possibility of setting up a Mos Eisley Marketplace in the front room of the suite, which will be a mini dealer's room devoted solely to SW zines and stuff. After a great deal of thought about the matter, I have decided that a user's fee of \$12.00 will be charged to anyone who wants to deal out of the Marketplace (compare at \$45.00 for a dealer's table), providing anyone is interested and we can find someone to be "on duty" during the hours the suite is open.

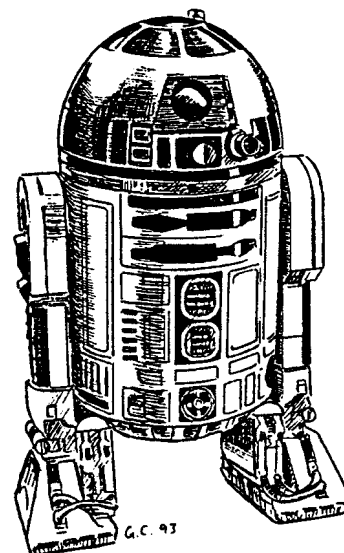
I have had some negative feedback on the fee idea so let me explain my decision in this matter. One of the reasons for this fee is to help deflect the cost of suite, which is twice as much as a regular room. I feel that, if you're using the room to your profit, you should help pay for it a little. The reason I decided on a flat fee rather than a percentage is to simplify the book-keeping and to try to be as fair as possible to all concerned. Due to the general hectic nature of the

convention, I decided it would be a major headache for everyone to try to figure up sales, subtract percentages and pay fees on Monday, while everyone is frantically trying to catch planes or get on the road. A flat fee, paid up front, will eliminate this problem.

In addition, a flat fee would be in line with the policy of the main dealers' room at the convention, which charges \$45.00 per table. This is also the charge for a table in the dealers' hall. Some of the negative comments I have received regarding the fee I am asking for space in the Marketplace is, "I'm not bringing that much stuff to sell." All I can say is, if you're not bringing enough merchandise to clear \$12.00, then you might be better off finding someone in the main dealer's room who can agent for you off their table. Also, I can't guarantee that you'll sell anything. That, unfortunately, is one of the facts of dealing at a convention. I have worked at conventions in which I barely cleared my table costs. Other conventions have seen me go home with my cash box full. There are no guarantees.

The main purpose of the suite is to provide SW/SE fans a place to congregate, chat, rest and share good times. The Marketplace is a secondary idea to maximize the use of the space. If no one is interested, then we'll drop that idea. However, if anyone is interested, please let me know. The sooner we can get details rolling, the better.

Meanwhile, hope everyone has a great spring and we'll all meet safely and happily in Lansing!



BULLETIN BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Karen Ripley on the publication (in November, 1993) of her latest book, *The Persistence of Memory*. It is the first volume of a trilogy. Ask for it if you can't find it at your local bookstore!

GET WELL SOON TO ...

Julie Phipps, who is recovering from surgery and a very serious illness. (See Marti Schuller's note below.)

Carolyn Golledge, who is mending after her surgery late last year.

CLUBS

Forces of the Empire
c/o Pat Grant
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12
Holt, MI 48842

The Moons of Yavin
19 Park Avenue
Bottesford, Scunthorpe
South Humberside DN17 2PB
England

NOTICE

If anyone is looking for a room at the Holiday Inn South (the convention hotel) for MWC, Ming Wathne says she has some space available. Contact Ming ASAP if you are interested. Her address is: 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

ERRATA

FROM: Marti Schuller

A British SW fan named Julie Phipps is in need of our prayers and best wishes. Her family informed me that she underwent two major surgeries in December to correct a twisted bowel. Apparently, things did not go very well as she is being kept unconscious and is on

a ventilator. Her family is reading all her mail to her, but since she's in intensive care, she cannot receive gifts or flowers. The family is encouraging Julie's friends to go on writing to her as they are optimistic and feel the letters boost her. She is only in her mid-20's and was engaged to be married in 1994. Her illness apparently came on quite suddenly and painfully. If you would like to write to her, the address is:

Julie Phipps
47 Cotswold Avenue
Duston, Northampton
NN5 6DP England

Update: Marti now informs me that Julie is much better and is home. However, she is still very weak and must use a wheelchair to get around. I'm sure she would love to hear from everyone out there.

FROM: Z. P. Florian

SW sound clips for your computer! You don't need a sound card, although it helps to have it. SW sound clips for Windows is the ultimate must-have for every fan! Your Windows opens with the sound of the Main Title, closes with Alec Guinness saying, "The Force will be with you, always!" Your applications shut down with Anthony Daniels shrieking, "Please don't deactivate me!" or with a mournful Wookiee roar. You open your last masterpiece and Luke says, "What a piece of junk!" Dozens of sound effects, or voice clips can be assigned to a variety of computer functions. Maximizing a window can have Harrison Ford tell you "Don't everybody thank me at once." Blast doors slam, Jawas scream, the cantina band plays, Leia begs for help... Imagine my shock when I went home one day and in the quiet of the night, Darth Vader roared at me from my computer, "I have you now!" My family loaded the program as a surprise to me. Boy, was I shocked and pleased! Soon available, sound clips from TESB as well. The product is a legit, commercially sold disk. Mine came from a Caldor store. I don't know its sound without a Soundblaster, but the brochure says it is just as good with the PC speakers. If you are used to eating, sleeping and breathing SW at home, you can now hear and compute SW, too!

Sounds Update

Lucasfilm is selling the SW sound and voice package for Windows, for some \$60. I got such a package for \$20 at Caldor. I have no idea how it came to be so cheap, but it was the greatest thing I've ever gotten, and now I have the best lines of ANH every-time I do anything with Windows. Anyone know whether the \$20 package is a test, a pirate copy, or what?

Computer News Related to Hamill

Sierra has produced an excellent new game called "Gabriel Knight". In the CD ROM version, you'll hear Mark Hamill's voice as Detective Moseley. (Incidentally, the hero of the game gets his voice from Tim Curry.) I do not have a CD ROM, so I only played the game in the regular version without speech, and I'd be interested in hearing from those who have actually heard the voices. The game is good, I warmly recommend it to all who like dark, mysterious, sexy, scary, heroic things, great graphics, great music.

SW Chess for Computers

If you have 40 mgs you don't know what to do with, you might want to have the SW chess game, where animated SW characters play chess, battling each other.

The Truce at Bakura

Finally, a SW book. A real one. Well written, as good as any fanzine story, good characters, great background, great action, and an excellent role for Luke, Leia and Han, plus a really wonderful lost little Jedi boy to shed tears over... Warmly recommended. I hope this book means that Lucas finally dropped Zahn and found a real writer to work with. A must read for all SW fans, and hope for sequels to come.

From: Gail Mihara

If you are trying to get in touch with your favorite SW actor, here are two addresses that can provide you with the names and addresses of agents representing them:

British Actors' Equity Association
Guild House
Upper St. Martin's Lane
London WC2H 9EG
England

American Actor's Equity
165 West 46th Street
New York, NY 10036

From: Arwen Rosenbaum (from Internet)

Greetings All -- Here's an announcement of interest to SW fans that I found in the Del Rey Internet Newsletter. Enjoy! (from Fred Kiesche)

Special Announcement: Action on the SW Front

Next month will be the release of our *Guide to the Star Wars Universe*, Second Edition. A fat trade book, it's illustrated throughout, and is a revised and greatly expanded version of our previous *Guide* (1984). The publication of the new *Guide* kicks off a year of SW action around Del Rey, as detailed below:

We will be repackaging the first-ever original SW novel, *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* by bestselling sf author Alan Dean Foster, in May of '94. *Splinter* was a hugely successful book when it was first published, and we want to introduce it to a whole new generation of readers -- almost literally. It will include an introduction by George Lucas, discussing (and dispelling some rumors of) how the book came about.

In July we'll be publishing a three-in-one volume of L. Neil Smith's *Adventures of Lando Calrissian* (a big fat book priced like a regular book, like our Han Solo Adventures).

But the most exciting project in the works is a trade paperback containing the entire script of the National Public Radio dramatization of SW. I've listened to the whole dramatization on tape (mostly while doing the dishes) and it's great! It has about 20% totally new material, written by Brian Daley: scenes that we only hear about in the movie version and the novel version, especially events on Alderaan, and some expansions of events that were briefly covered in the movie. The script will be illustrated with art from the LucasFilm archives: production sketches, storyboard art, photos of props and filming, and stuff like that (I'm not quite sure what else because we haven't picked out the art yet). And the book may even have an introduction by Brian Daley, who's one of the most expert SW experts ever.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

Southern Enclave #6, December 1984. 70 pp., triple column, reduced. Featured an article by Judi Grove on the filming of *Witness* near Lancaster, PA. Also featured an article by Ann Wortham regarding the *Raiders of the Lost Ark* bloopers as seen at the 42nd WorldCon in Los Angeles; and an article by Liz Sharpe regarding the presentation of torture and

mistreatment of the droids in the SW saga. Reviews by Sandra Necchi of *Wookiee Commode* #1 and *Kessel Run* #4.

LoCers: Elsie Bartok, Terri Black, Sonia Blodgett, Barbara Brayton, Marcia Brin, Danaline Bryant, Chris Callahan, Bev Clark, Melody Corbett, B. J. Evans, Karen Finch, Debbie Gilbert, Jeanine Hennig, Barbara Izzo, Marlene Karkoska, Mary Keever, Thekla Kurth, P. J. LaVasseur, Michelle Malkin, Cynthia Manship, Sandra Necchi, Maggie Nowakowska, Carol Peters, Carole Regine, Sharon Saye, Sally Smith, Jean L. Stevenson, Sally Syrjala, Barbara Tennison, Mary Urhausen, Laura Virgil, Lin S. Ward, and Ann Wortham.

Art by: Danaline Bryant, Carol Peters, Cheree Cargill.

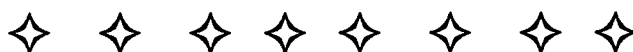
Zines Listed: [Available] *Circle of Light* #1, *Contraband* #2, *Deceptive Journey*, *Errantry* #2, *Fantasy* #1, *Far Realms* #6, *Field Studies* #1, *Flip of a Coin* #1-5, *Green Harvest*, *Guardian* #6, *Harrison Ford Fun Book*, *Kessell Run* #4, *Legends of Light* #2, *Melange* #3-4, *On the Mark*, *Outland Chronicles* #2, *Scoundrel*, *Shooting Star* #1, *The Old Republic Reader*, *Wookiee Commode* #1, *Universal Translator*, *VHF-The Complete Book of Lyrics*, *Well of the Souls* #4. [Coming] *A Tremor in the Force* #2, *The Baron of Bespin*, *Collected Circle of Fire*, *Contraband* #3, *Echo Seven* #1, *Field Studies* #2, *Knight's Lady*, *of The Steed's Tale* (Knight Rider), *Once Upon a Galaxy*, *One from the Heart*, *Perceptions*, *Perfect Fusion* #1, *Perspective*, *Shooting Star* #2, *Southern Knights* #1, *Southern Lights* #1, *The Leading Edge* (sf), *The Millennium Falcon Casebook*, *The Monocle* (Wizards and Warriors), *Wookiee Commode* #2, *Well of the Souls* #5, *Xanadu*. [Other Worlds] Ad for The Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society (Lucasfilm club from Carolyn Cooper, and Mark Hamill Society U.K. Zines for sale from several people; zines wanted by several people. VHF tapes (Martie Benedict's films). Ad seeking contributions for Walk of Fame star for Harrison Ford.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Salutations from Long Island, New York. This is actually my first time writing to your fanzine but I wanted to make sure I made this submission at the appropriate time. You see, we have completed our first SW film spoof. There has since been quite a few things that have happened in the last six months as a result.

Firstly, we finished the movie and it came out very well. So well, in fact, that one of the people that worked on it, who is an aspiring film director and who goes to film school, sent the film to Lucasfilm for them to see. We had no idea what their reaction would be until we heard from the editor of the Lucasfilm Fan Club, Dan Madsen, that we were going to have the opportunity to make the film available to all those SW fans out there through the magazine. We were on cloud nine, as you can imagine! In fact, if you get the Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine, you will see in the Reader's Forum an entire column based on our movie spoof. Just look for the winter issue which should be out at the end of February. The spoof came out quite funny but we made no bones about the fact that what we really wanted to do was a serious amateur movie with the adventures of Leia and Han's children (grown up, of course). In fact, we have already started the screenplay for this movie. So you see, however good the spoof seems to the fans who have seen it, it was only a rough draft or trial run, if you will, for the movie we are currently working on. We hope Lucasfilm likes this film as much as they liked the spoof so we can again offer it directly to the fans.

I told the Lucasfilm Fan Club that I only wanted the opportunity for fans to see our handiwork so we arranged a system whereby a SW fan who wishes to own a copy of our SW spoof will not have to pay for it. All they do is send a blank VHS tape and \$7.00 for postage and handling to the below address and we will dub the movie onto their VHS tape. If you do not have access to an extra videotape or would rather not incur the expense of sending one through the mail, simply add an additional \$2.00 (for a total of \$9.00) and we would be happy to provide the VHS tape.

You also receive in the package details on how anyone can contribute to the movie we will be filming shortly by either doing actual filming of aliens, spaceports, space battles, to even constructing unusual models and props that can be used in the film. Everyone who's idea or footage is used will receive recognition in our closing credits.

I am writing to you now as a filmmaker because I would like to offer the members of your fanzine the opportunity to see the film and to become involved in our next adventure. The address is listed below and I hope to hear from each and every one of you, because the greatest excitement I could receive is the excitement of knowing other SW fans are sharing the adventure that I too have shared. Take care and walk the skies...

David Zaritsky
P. O. Box 249
Calverton, NY 11933
DP. S

Editor and Publisher:

Cheree T. Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

Subscription Price: \$7.00 single issue, \$21.00 for 3 issues or \$28.00 for a year. Please specify issue starting number. Back issues available for \$2.00 each. Back issues available: 23-25, 26, 28 30, 32-38. All others are sold out. Ad Rates: Classified ads -- free. Half page ads: \$5.00 each. Full page ads: \$7.50 each or supply 75-100 flyers for insertion in issue.
Deadline for #39 -- June 30, 1994

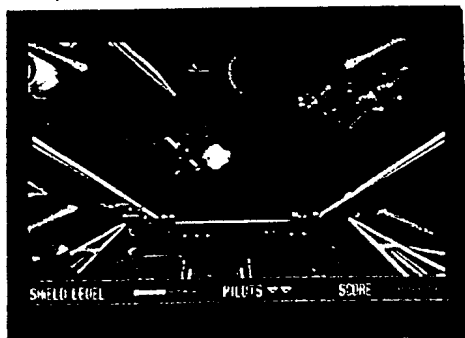
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Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.

Rebel Assault.....



This CD is why this column almost didn't get written this month. We'd be dutifully testing something like *Multimedia Business 500* when the call to jump into an X-wing space fighter and blast a few more imperial troops became irresistible. *Rebel Assault*



Is that Princess Leia calling for help? Better fire up the X-wing—that memo can wait!

from LucasArts uses 3-D computer-generated graphics on top of scrolling video clips in a way only a CD can.

The 3-D effects and detailed landscapes make this desktop flying the way *Flight Simulator* should be. The effect is hypnotizing. The game is demanding—you have to earn your wings on training flights and then fight your way through a half-dozen scenarios until you arrive at the game's climax—an assault down the trench run on the Death Star. The music and sound effects are taken from the *Star Wars* movies, and the animation of you crashing your training plane is so well done it makes dying fun.

Any complaints? Well, yes: It's written for DOS, it wants you to disable your memory manager for better game response, and its proprietary sound technique required fiddling with our sound board settings for a half hour until we found one that didn't produce scratchy voices. But no one said saving the galaxy was easy.

Parade

Best Legal Comment

By Malcolm Ford, to his preschool classmates on what his father, Harrison Ford, does for a living:

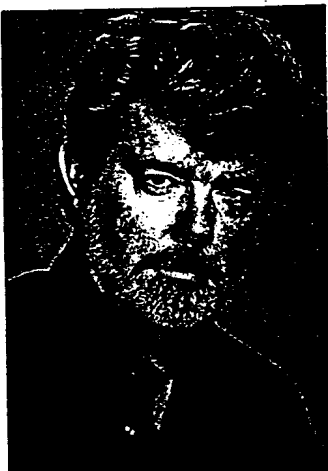
"My daddy is a movie actor, and sometimes he plays the good guy, and sometimes he plays the lawyer."

So go ahead and sue.

PARADE'S SPECIAL

INTELLIGENCE REPORT®

Because of volume of mail received, Parade regrets it cannot answer queries



George Lucas today (l) and the stars of his original *Star Wars*—Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford (l-r): Get ready, fans, there's more to come

Lucas Gears Up for More *Star Wars*

If all goes according to schedule, by 1997 we'll see the first of three new *Star Wars* prequels from producer George Lucas, who hasn't directed a film in 17 years.

When he developed *Star Wars* back in the '70s, Lucas mapped out a total of nine films. The three that have been released—*Star Wars* (1977), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) and *Return of the Jedi* (1983), which grossed a total of \$809 million in the U.S. alone—covered the middle of the megamyth (film Nos. 4, 5 and 6). Now, at the Skywalker Ranch in Marin County, Calif., the high-tech production center that Lucas built with his *Star Wars* fortune,

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are taking shape. This trilogy will feature a young Obi-Wan Kenobi and a young Darth Vader.

At his secluded ranch, Lucas also said he's planning a new *Indiana Jones* project, as well as other features and TV films.

Meanwhile, "TIE Fighter," a new computer game, will give players a chance to fly under the command of Darth Vader. And a computer screen-saver will offer an insider's view of the *Star Wars* universe—including detailed information on all the characters, the original script and storyboards, and 100 digitized sound effects. Both are due in April from LucasArts, the producer's game company.

Thanks to Debbie Kittle, Maggie Nowakowska, Marti Schuller and all the others who sent clippings. I wish we could print them all!

Names & Faces



ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Williams retires tonight after 13 years as music director of the Boston Pops.

films and has won four Oscars, including one for the soundtrack to Steven Spielberg's "E.T." His other Spielberg scores include those for "Jaws," "Star Wars," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Jurassic Park" and this winter's critically acclaimed "Schindler's List." Next up: the score for Spielberg's adaptation of Robert Waller's best-selling book "The Bridges of Madison County."

Williams, who announced his retirement two years ago, has said he's leaving the Pops to spend time with his family in Los Angeles. He has agreed to act as adviser to the group and become artist-in-residence at the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Mass., summer home of the 108-year-old orchestra.

His replacement has not yet been named.

SEVENTH SENSE

BRIAN WILLIAMSON



DESKTOP DAYDREAMS

by Nancy Riley

THE *STAR WARS* MOVIES REMIND ME OF MY DAYDREAMS. George Lucas earned millions exploiting my unscheduled mental vacations.

In school, I spent a lot of time imagining my pencil as the flagship of my intergalactic armada.

I've always been a space cadet. In the grains of wooden doors, I see animals, people and three-headed waffle irons. Blowing bubbles still fascinates me.

I hoped the rigid discipline of computer science would cure my dreaminess. Little did I suspect that computers cure daydreamers about as well as hospitals cure hypochondriacs.

Programmers make even a tiny utility like a screen saver an excuse for a flight of fancy. After idling on a business application for a potentially lethal time, the screen saver will kick in and some crazy animated graphic will rescue us from screen burnout and the tragedy of mental putrefaction.

Just blacking out the screen would do the job. I hear that some no-nonsense types actually use screen savers like that. As for me, I await the next generation of screen savers.

I'm sure that artificial intelligence experts will soon enter the screen saver arena and turn these animated graphics into imaginary friends.

My imaginary friend would be a Jedi Knight with pointy ears. He would say things like "Live long and prosper" and "May the force be with you." Samurai warriors would make great alter egos for certain high-powered types. Pet lovers could have dogs or cats as their imaginary friends. You can see the possibilities.

As imaginary friends, screen savers could capture viruses and imprison them in disk jails that they designed. However, when they act as jailers, our imaginary friends may need us to cheer them up.

And if our screen-saving, virus-capturing, imaginary friends ever needed serious help, the term "computer analyst" could take on a whole new meaning.

Since trends come and go, we won't have to wait long for

mood screen savers. Little heat sensors connected to the keys could record the thermal energy of the last fingers that tapped the keyboard. From this reading, the computer would continuously analyze our mood.

Maybe when screen savers turn into big mood rings or imaginary friends, they will get a little more respect.

Calling these animated daydreams "screen savers" is like calling a painting a "wall covering" or a photograph an "electrochemical representation." Whoever came up with the name "screen saver" probably likes the sort that just blacks out the screen.

Maybe having a boring name that speaks only of usefulness is the screen saver's passport to the workplace. For instance, nobody has a hot tub in his or her office. Now, if someone had the marketing savvy to recast hot tubs as "idea stimulators," I'll bet corporations would order them by the dozens.

Even now, some businesses have to ignore that screen savers bring a bit of the avant-garde art gallery into the layered, littered look of most corporate dungeons.

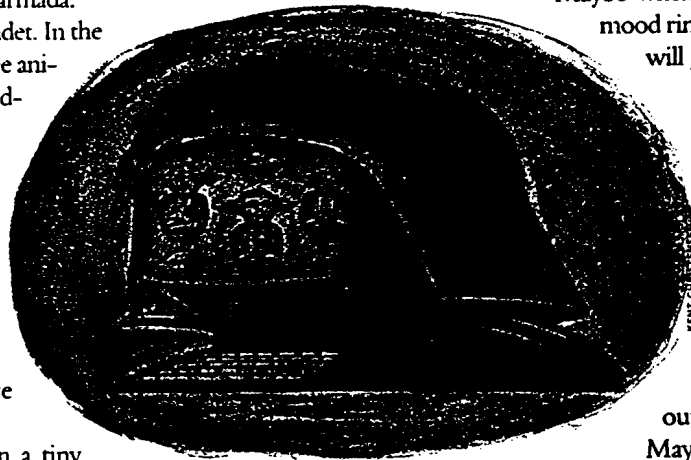
Unlike many aspects of corporate culture, screen savers allow people in the office to express their true inner essence and spiritual aura.

A technical editor who reminds me of my old English teacher, Mrs. Farnsworth, has cats jumping across her screen. A workaholic scientist has purple bubbles aimlessly floating across his. What sorts of worlds do these people get lost in?

Besides the psychological comfort they provide, screen savers help keep me out of trouble. If I arrive at someone's office too early, I have something to stare at, which keeps me from riffling through the papers on the desk.

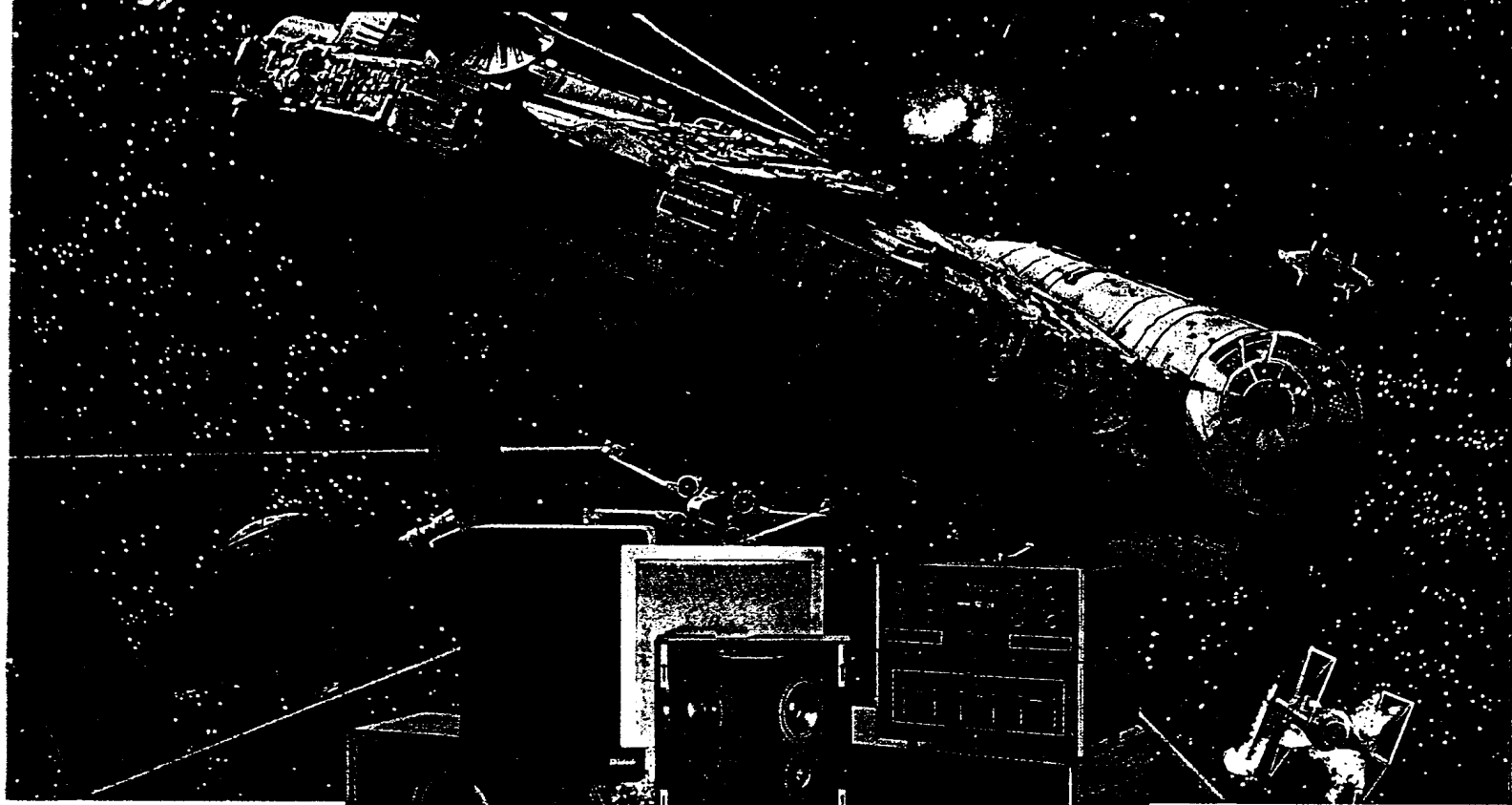
My own screen saver is like a mirror that reflects my hidden desires. If I've been thinking too long about a problem and haven't touched my keyboard, the screen saver shows me where I am—in the stars.

Usually, after a moment or two of imagining my pencil navigating through them, I force myself back to work. □



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Shaking the room, And you.

They fly over your head. You hear them disappear behind you, just as your son, with fresh popcorn in hand, joins you on the family room sofa...

This magnitude of realism is only available from a manufacturer with 40 years of American design and engineering experience building internationally acclaimed audio components. **McIntosh**. Combine the world's *first* single-brand THX®-licensed home theatre system with a big screen TV, HI-FI, VCR and laser disc player. The C39 pre-amp switcher has built in Dolby® Pro-Logic circuitry. It is multi-zone and expandable and will accept a dealer-installed module for home THX® processing. Also pictured is the matching MC7106 900-Watt, six channel THX® amp and a set of **McIntosh** THX® speakers and sub-woofer.

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In November of 1994, just in time to stave off Media West withdrawal, comes

ECLECTICON!

Covering the worlds of fanzines and media fandom -- three days of fandom, fun and friends! No guests, no autograph lines, but plenty of good stuff!

When?

November 4-5-6, 1994

Where?

The Ramada Hotel, Newark International Airport, Routes 1&9 South, Newark, NJ

What?

Programming -- a mix of this, that and the other thing, all intended to tickle the fancy of the media fan. You'll find four tracks of panels, covering writing, editing, and publishing, general fandom topics, discussions on specific fandoms, TV shows and movies, and the ever-popular Miscellaneous. Structured panels too mundane for you? Immerse yourself in one of our freewheeling informal discussion groups.

And if that's not enough, you can while away the weekend in the con suite or video room, enter the hall costume competition, and browse in the art show and dealers' room. Feel like spending money? You can kiss your budget goodbye out of simple avarice at our art auction or humanitarian generosity at the charity auction! Feeling particularly energetic or just plain helpful? Volunteer to work as a gopher!

Memberships:

Attending:	\$30.00 until 5/31/94
	\$35.00 until 11/4/94
Supporting:	\$ 8.00 at all times

Art Show and Auction

Entrants must be supporting or attending members of Eclecticon. Contact Kathy Coy for further information.

Dealers' Room:

Dealers' tables are 6 feet long, and sell for \$35/full, \$20/half. Additional tables cost \$45.00. Interested dealers should send a SASE to Kathy Agel at the convention address below. Space is limited -- reserve your table early! Dealer tables do not include memberships -- memberships must be purchased separately.

Food Bank:

We will be accepting donations for the various food banks in the northern NJ area. Members are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items as well as soap and paper products.

Hotel Information:

Our venue is the Ramada Hotel, Routes 1&9, Newark, NJ. The hotel is located directly across from Newark Airport, and is conveniently close to the NJ Turnpike and other major highways. and is serviced by several shuttles an hour. The hotel boasts a comfortable, laid-back atmosphere, and an attached bar and full-service diner/restaurant, with other various retail amenities located in the area.

Masquerade:

No formal costume contest will be held, but we will be holding a hall costume competition. Details will appear in Progress Report 1.

Orphan Zines:

Zine publishers unable to attend Eclecticon are invited to send zines to the convention to be sold at our Orphan Zine table. For more information, send a SASE to the Orphan Zine Coordinator, Kathy Coy, at:
485 Hawkins Blvd.
Copiague, NY 11726

Programming:

Four tracks of panels are planned: General Fandom, Specific Fandom, Writing-Editing-Publishing, and Miscellaneous. Potential panelists should contact our programming director, Pat Ames. All panel suggestions should also be sent to her at:

24 Gorham Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424-1803

Video Room:

Members interested in watching specific programs or volunteering tapes should contact our Video Coordinator, David Gold, at

16B Village of Stony Run
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

Volunteers:

We're looking for a few good women (and men, droids, workaholics, aliens, and general Type-A personalities). If you're interested in working the con, contact our Chief Gopher, Jeanne Weselinski Gold, at
16B Village of Stony Run
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fannish interests:

Do you want to be a panelist? _____ Gopher? _____

ECLECTICON, c/o Kathryn Agel, 9 - 11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510
Make all checks payable to Eclecticon

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESSES

There've been movies, comics and a TV series. Now the Jones boys have their own letterzine! Keeping Up With the Joneses is the place to discuss any and all aspects of the Indiana Jones saga.

From his first interest in archaeology to his relationship with his father; from the turn of the century exploits of the youngest Indy to the college professor cum soldier of fortune of the movies and beyond. Observations, opinions and ideas are sought on the lives and adventures of our favourite archaeologist and his father.

Issues one through four are currently available. Additional contents include:

Issue 1: Denholm Elliot filmography, book review: The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles, Book One: The Mata Hari Affair, news of current projects involving the Indiana Jones actors, a Harrison Ford interview from England, and a regular column of zine listings.

Issue 2: Episode guide to season one of the series Archaeology, news on a recent discovery in the Great Pyramid at Giza, articles on The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles.

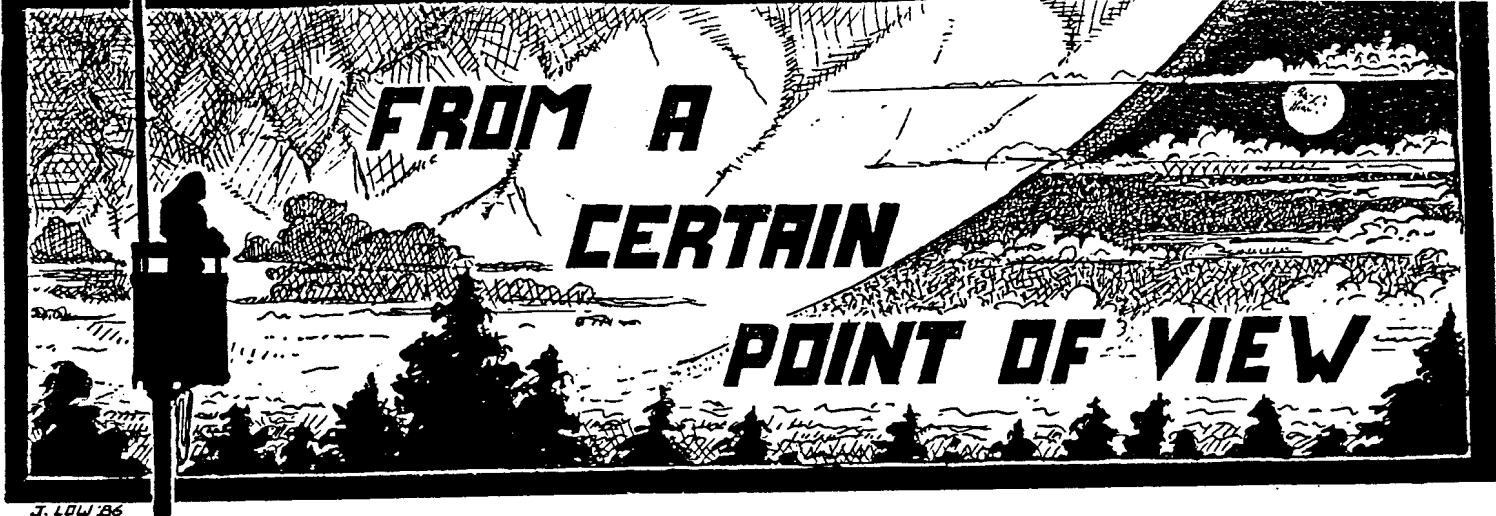
Issue 3: "If You Like Indy, You Might Like..." (an overview of 30's and 40's movies similar in tone or characters to the Indy movies), articles and reviews on Rising Sun and The Fugitive, and preliminary news on the then rumored Indy 4.

Issue 4: "I Say, Does Anybody Here Speak English: Henry Jones Sr. and the British Class System", book review: Indiana Jones and the Sky Pirates, articles on Ford, Connery and Spielberg and updates on the now officially announced Indy 4.

Issues are \$2.50 each or four for \$10.00 (postage included). Back issues one and two are available for \$1.00 each. Please make all checks payable to Jeannie Webster.

Available from:

Jeannie Webster
416 E. 241st Street
Woodlawn, NY 10470



Z. P. Florian
6214 Waterway Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22044

Hi to all and I have a bad feeling about this (more later). I'm trying to be short, probably won't.

Yvette Ghilan: I don't think an author is free to distribute his/her stories while the zine that published them is still in print. After all, if we all did this, how would a zine editor ever sell a zine? My work was given and it belongs to the zine. We don't work for money, but for love (love of the fandom and our own art, of course) and we try to do it kinda honorable. Re: having a separate zine for the "smut", so the reader won't have to worry about finding "not pure" material in other zines. Let's have then "pure" zines, too, where Han sticks to smuggling daffodils, doesn't shoot Greedo from under the table, Luke won't fall in love with his own sister, and Leia will never turn traitor to the Empire.

Looking at the zine ads at the end of SE, I can actually see a split in fandom, as some zines expressly state "no slash, no profanity" and others emerge embracing the wild side of the Force. Gentlebeings, I can foresee the future. There is a storm coming. I wish I were wrong in this ... continuing to:

Maggie Nowakowska: As you said, it's amazing how we can all watch the same show and interpret it differently -- but even more amazing that anyone would want to close the door on the interpretations of another fan.

Re: Leia as an aristocrat and senator -- Veronica Wilson does it heaps better than I do. Her upcoming stories are doing justice to Leia.

Barbara Anderson: Oh, I wouldn't think anyone wants to put out a zine with only sex scenes in it, that's boring. But giving sex the same intense attention we usually give to moral agonizing should be worth a try. If the writer wants to remain anonymous,

that's fine. What blackmail? "If you don't give me your Luke doll, I'll tell everyone that you wrote the story about Han's youthful lapse with Boba Fett"?

Catherine Churko: Yes, I hope next year the dolls will be in the cantina and can be photographed. We are going to have a Golledge diorama: Han in the hospital... About the unfinished graffiti, the guy was clubbed to death with the butt end of a rifle right there by the wall.

Brian Harris: You are right about the galactic art business. I remember Vader toying with one of those Fefze larvae thingies -- or was it Tarkin who collected them?

Louise Turner: I've been just as irritated by the Zahn books, never got through the third one. The cloned Luke thing was pitiful. Zine writers at least had the grace to give some personality to a Luke clone ... this was cheap! I agree with you on the touchy subject of virginity, depends on social status and tradition. Han did have a "humanoid wench wriggling on his lap" in the novelization, but then Mos Eisley was not the "most wretched hive of scum and villainy" for nothing ... uh, on the other hand, compared to Washington, DC, it was pretty tame.

Catriona Campbell: No, you're not warped. If the Jedi feels the pain of others, he should feel pleasure as well. Re: the story I wrote for your zine, I guess I managed to prove that this is not something one can always try without consequences.

Fiorenzo: I'd read anything you had written, in advance or otherwise. (Floppy??) Re: darkside, I prefer to think that the Force is One, if normally approached, just as life and death are the same, light can't exist without shadow, etc., and both the Lightsiders and Darksiders are making a mistake separating it, and that's why both approaches fail. Luke refused to fight the Emperor and was nearly killed -- Vader's decision to do murder saved the day! And Vader did it for the sake of his son (an action of the light) but it

was still murder (an action of darkness).

Jacqueline Taero: Hey, yours is the *best* pre-ANH story ever, and it works, too. And you are right, Yoda and Kenobi were obsessed by punishing the traitor, to the point of forgetting about the Emperor.

Veronica Wilson: Thank you for saying that "the Force is life and sex is the ultimate life-confirming act" -- a Zornom couldn't have said it better.

Tim Blaes: Yeah! At the next MWC, let's have a round-robin storytelling. Not writing -- telling. Each bard will get three minutes per turn, continuing the story, and we tape the whole thing. Tapes can be duplicated and sold or given away later. We could stay up all night and have a sensational time. Who's in?

Liz Sharpe: Wanna write that Han story about his clone and Boba Fett and all the booze for my zine? Huh? Please?

So, I tried to be short ... I couldn't even answer everybody I wanted to. Z.P., signing off. Feed a Wookiee, skin an Ewok.

Can't Wait Until MWC

Tammy Olsen
Hesser College
3 Sundial Avenue
Manchester, NH 03103
Attn: 518

What a nice surprise to get the next issue of SE here at school. I am dying for some news. Of any kind. I haven't gotten anything to read in a long time. Fortunately, I got it the day before I went home for Thanksgiving break. So I have to write a quick LoC and get it off.

The State of the Union was nice to read. I haven't watched the video in a while (I have no way to at school) and reading it brought back some nice memories.

Z. P.: Your "Confessions" will hopefully help me a little. I haven't been able to write anything since I got to school. Must be the lack of inspiration.

Almost regular (relationship) indeed. Luke raped her! What a surprise! More to come in AS...#?, right???

Cheree: I hope your husband is able to find another job and you can come to MW next year.

Yeah, I saw Mark's program *Body Bags*. Very different to say the least. I wonder if he used a

double for the bed scene?

Marti: You didn't like *The Guyver*? Why not? Little (calm down, Melanie, not that little) Luke turned into a bug! Mark did a really good acting job in that one, but I do agree that the movie was a little weird.

Yes, the ice princess did show her human side in the Endor scene.

Where is the story you blamed on Debbie being printed? It wouldn't surprise me if it has already been printed and I missed it!

Nora: That was you dressed as Luke? I wondered who that was when I saw you. Great costume.

Alright, I agree, everyone in the saga suffered. But because Luke was the focus, it appears that he suffers more than anyone.

Mary Jo: Great zine! *Blue Harvest* really surprised me. It's beautiful.

Yes, Tina did have a Vader shrine in her room at MW.

Haven't met any "Jedi" collectors? Come to MW next year and see me. I waste money on my Jedi all the time.

Yeah, I missed the QVC special with Mark, too. Someday, I'll see it. Are the actors paid for appearing on QVC (like, you mentioned William Shatner)?

Charyl: Nice to see a LoC from ya. How's TT coming? You still counting the days until MW? Not far away now.

What zine price war?

I'll bet great fighters make great lovers!

Write, write, write, Charyl. I can't wait to see TT.

"They came from behind"!! Very sick (but good), Charyl.

Carolyn Cooper: I am so glad to hear that you are going to do another FACPOV. How about getting Scotty Perkins to write the sequel to "Past Shadows, Future Voices"? I really liked that story and wanted to read more.

Michelle: I would kill if someone scared my beloved kitties. I love all five of them to death.

Tina: A theater showing SW down there!! Oh, how I envy you. I would love to see the Trilogy in the theater. It must have been great to see all the people waiting to see ANH.

Enjoy the cards. They are extras that I had.

No, I don't dislike Han. He is just not my favorite character and I see no need to hide that opinion.

Brian: Welcome. It's great to get another male perspective on things.

Do you write stories? You've got a lot of great story ideas.

Jennifer: What a story idea. Hope to see you at MW '94. This time I'll know who you are!

Gerald: *Jurassic Park* was great. They will do a sequel in the form of another SW movie! I hope *Jurassic Park*'s popularity has convinced Lucas that he could indeed do another SW movie with those effects and have it be as popular.

Catriona: What an interesting idea. Luke's ID being fake and that's why Owen didn't want Luke to go to the Academy. Have you heard the SW Radio Show? I just listened to it and it has a lot of extra dialogue between Owen and Beru that is interesting. Biggs has a lot of lines in it, too.

Can't wait to see your zine. Z. P. has a story with Luke walking around 99% of the time naked! When is the exact release date for *Bad Feeling*?

Fiorenzo: In your LoC was the first time I had heard of three novels about Luke training new Jedi. There is certainly a lot of new reading material coming out.

I heard from a friend that she saw Lucas on *Entertainment Tonight* saying that Lucasfilm is now working on the new Trilogy. From the horse's mouth, folks. I think he has finally started. I can't wait.

Jacqueline: On the droid topic, I have always wondered why R2 and 3PO were not questioned (in SW) by the stormtroopers as to why they were hiding. Are droids just automatically trusted? That could prove dangerous for either side. They would make good spies.

Veronica: I agree with you. If Marti made Luke impotent we would have to kill her. Can't wait to see you at MW. I hope your studies are going well. Debbie loves your story.

Take care, everyone. Hope to see you all in May '94.



Mary Jo Fox
9805 Fox Rest Lane
Vienna, VA 22181

"SW, nothing but SW, please let these SW ... stay..."

Cheree: I'm really sorry about what has happened, and I hope everything works out for the best. A rest is well-deserved, though, and I hope it won't be long before you're back at the ol' word processor.

Truce at Bakura: I liked this one a lot. First of all, there's Drew Struzan's lovely cover art. The story itself had much more to offer in the romance department than Timothy Zahn's books, though some of you might be crying "Mary Sue." The gross scenes with the Ssi-ruuk were cool and I liked the way Kathy Tyers explores Leia's feelings about her Jedi heritage. There are some really touching scenes, particularly the one where Luke and Leia discuss the possibility of either one having children in the future. I have a friend who has a preview copy of the next SW novel, *Jedi Search*, and he says that one is even better than *Truce*... and he's loaning it to me! Ha ha ha! The rest of you will have to wait.

Blue Harvest and the other zine I'm doing: Thanks to all you guys who waited patiently for Episode One. Yes, there will be an Episode Two, due out in February. Send art, essays, articles, reviews, etc.!!

As if doing one zine and school aren't enough, Yvette Ghilan and I will be producing a one-time only zine devoted to the hippest girl in the galaxy, Her Worshipfulness Princess Leia. We want art, poetry, stories, filks, cartoons, even essays *all* about Leia, from any time frame in the SW universe. We want only the best, most *positive* material you can create: no trashin', no bashin', and no sleaze. This is going to be a lovezine, a celebration of girlpower. The working title of the zine is *Snowfire: A Celebration of Princess Leia*, and we're shooting for a May 1995 release. Submissions are open until November 1, 1994, so get busy! Write to PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181 or to Yvette's address if you're interested.

Tales of the Jedi: Beautiful comic series! Tom Veitch is definitely a Jedi saint. I say we ask *him* to write a novel for Bantam.

Veronica: Yes, after all of these years, ROTJ still touches my heart with its "searing beauty."

Maggie: Whew! You had lots to say, but I will comment on how fans can't accept Leia as she is. It sure does seem that way, but Yvette and I hope our humble zine will for once, at least temporarily, change that!

Catherine: Hey, send me that young Leia drawing! Yes, I'll have to keep practicing my Jedi mind tricks. My BH co-editor's a lot better at it than I am. There are some song lyrics that remind me of SW, too. One example that comes to mind is a line from Siouxsie and the Banshees' "Israel" that goes: "Keep your hearts alive/With a song from inside..." that makes me think of the final scene from TESB.

Tina: Cute picture.

Michelle: Someday, someday I'll have to check out *The Princess Tapes*. Thanks.

Louise: You saw Wedge nekked? Oooh! Those crazy Rogue Squadron boys! The SW universe is filled with attractive people. Has anyone ever noticed that everyone, even Chewie, has lovely eyes? Am I the only one who notices these things?

Tim: Sarah Connor, Ellen Ripley and Leia Organa are sci-fi's riot girls ... no support group can stop them.

Cheryl, Debbie, Jennifer and Nora: It was cool finally seeing you guys. If any of you visit Planet Hollywood in DC, you'll have to look carefully for Harrison Ford's handprints. They also have Darth Vader's helmet. In the little room where they sell t-shirts is a big ol' Death Star used in ROTJ. I went up to the glass case and drooled all over it. For some nutty reason, I thought if I looked at it closely enough, I'd see little TIE fighters buzzing around it.

Toys: I'm enjoying collecting the Bend-Ems! I feel 8 years old again. Okay, so they're not the best execution I've seen of the characters, but so what. All I need is Obi-Wan...

Finally, I have a need to address the rampant cynicism I've seen in LoCs and stories. True, there are times when the line between light and dark blurs into gray. Yes, they are fighting a war, which is, as we all know, hell. But for the most part, what we see is what we get in the SW universe. The good guys are good and the bad guys, with the exception of Vader, are totally bad. SW at its very heart is pure and free from cynicism. This isn't to say it's free from complexity. Like most myths and fairy tales, there is a subliminal subtext to the plot. However, SW is *not* about confronting complicated social issues nor is it an existential treatise. We easily accept the fact that we can hear ships exploding in space, yet we cannot believe Han Solo is basically a nice, decent man hiding beneath wisecracks and bravado. Oh, nooo, he has to be a sexually-molested, alcoholic, schizophrenic, crazed, immoral, unreformable crook!

Perhaps some fans cannot accept heroes -- having heroes is for suckers, they suppose with their late-20th

century sensibilities. So, they feel a need to pull the heroes down to their level, or lower, and burden them with talk-show-topic problems.

"But that's more realistic," you might say. Well, to heck with that! If I want "realistic", I can turn on CNN. The reason why people watch the Saga over and over, why little kids who weren't even conceived when ROTJ came out love the movies, why I still admire these fabulous characters after 16 years and, at age 24, is that SW rises above "gritty realism" and shows us a galaxy of hope, and of people we can look up to and learn from. This is what Lucas wanted to create -- a mythos that would be an antidote to the bleak cynicism that pervaded this country in the post-Vietnam/Watergate years.

With that in mind, farewell, and good evening.

High Fives and Hugs

Brian Harris
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Crowley, TX 76036

November 29, 1993

Seasons greetings and peace to everyone as I write this tonight, following a total lunar eclipse. Mystical, for sure, like totally. Thanks everyone for your kind words and warm welcomes, thank you! High fives and hugs and a toast to you all -- consume mass quantities! Hot apple cider for everyone!

Cheree: Grace under pressure through this current test of resolve. I hope things work out, and soon. Serenity and solutions today, *Tremor* #9 when you're ready.

New SW Fiction As Of This Writing: The *Tales of the Jedi* series rocks! Don't want to hear the criticism of plot/characterization/writing style? Do the unexpected! Luke *who*? The ships, the creatures, the characters, the artwork, the writing ... what a treasure. This is the feeling I experienced when I first saw ANH in 1977 at age 10. Flamin' cool! The Twi'lek Jedi was a masterstroke.

The Truce at Bakura: I think this novel fills a void that many thought was created by Timothy Zahn's handling of "characters and situations created by George Lucas." While I enjoyed Zahn's trilogy immensely, it didn't feel complete. Kathy Tyers' turn at SW solves this nicely, though Lando's absence is conspicuous (though I can't imagine what good he

could have done in this particular story). Still, *Truce* offers what the Zahn novels seemed to miss the beat on -- humor. And those Ssi-ruuk were downright sinister. Overall, a pleasant and refreshing addition to the SW saga.

Nora Mayers: Your comments regarding the fizzling out of the creative spark made me think of the Zahn trilogy. Maybe if he had written *one* SW novel, Lucas' characters wouldn't have seemed so, well, out-of-character. But remember, five years have passed between ROTJ and *Heir*. And to answer your question in SE#37, yes! I'll bring the tea and honey...

Mary Jo: May I plug *Blue Harvest* in these pages? Gangsters, get it, read it, love it!

Maggie Nowakowska: This was going to be another companion piece to your dissertation on the undeniable and beautiful, but often overlooked and lambasted, strength of women. But you do it so much better than I do! I mean, I'm probably qualified to speak in support of and recognition of women, but by no means or measure am I qualified to speak *for* women. When we get to that level, well, hell, I'm just a man. As far as Leia is concerned, George and Carrie can't speak for her in these pages. So, on the man/woman discussion, I give you the new Rush album, *Counterparts*. Get it, listen to it, love it!

Yvette Ghilan: *Admire* Princess Leia? She's my favorite SW character, with so much development potential. Wait'll you see the story I'm writing focusing on Leia.

Michelle Malkin: Oh, I'm not worried; it's refreshing, actually. Before I knew about SW fandom, I'd always imagined it to be a bunch of dweeby guys with hero/power fixations. I've never actually met a woman who loves SW as much as I do, though I used to be involved with a woman who read at least as much science fiction as I do.

Z. P. Florian: You wouldn't hold a grudge forever, would you?

Barbara Anderson: *Dated* myself? Yikes. But thank you, darlin'! I'd be very flattered to receive flowers from a woman! We seem to think along the same lines regarding art in the SW galaxy, but I think you one-upped me with your cloud-sculpting scenario. And I noticed that stormtrooper, too. Mary Jo told me to look for it -- how I missed it, I haven't a clue -- and I nearly burst a vessel from laughing so hard. *CLUNK!* What a scream!

Louise Turner: You've definitely done your homework on the subject of empires. Did you ever see a movie called *Red Dawn*? Quite a change from America the Free to a Communist territory, rather

like an Imperial occupation would probably be like. ((*Ed*: I had a stray thought ramble through my head a while back regarding the Empire. I had always thought it was an internal organism that arose and replaced the Old Republic. What if it is an external entity that overpowered and consumed the Old Republic? Consider the differences in technologies: the Empire is highly technical and machine-oriented. The Republic was apparently more "medieval" in nature, relying on the Jedi as "guardians of peace and justice." Suppose that the most the Alliance can ever hope to do is merely throw off the Empire's hold and attempt to return to the style of government that had existed before, something that can't happen because too much has changed. As an analogy, consider the British Empire's rule of India and the resulting chaos that followed India's attainment of home rule in 1948. Back to Brian...))

Depeche Mode influenced you to create a character? Cool! Being a guitarist, though, I personally find it difficult to write stories by listening to music. Songs tend to inspire me to write better songs, with varying degrees of success. Still, that's an idea. Maybe I should put on *Joe's Garage Act 1* by Frank Zappa and see what I come up with!

Gerald Crotty: The Endor battle was rife with dark humor, but it's hardly slapstick. A scorned housewife assaulting her cheating husband with a big kitchen utensil looks hilarious, but have you ever been *hit* with a skillet? Dude, it *hurts*!

Catriona Campbell: I don't think a woman's reason for being a SW fan can seriously be blamed on hormones. A 13-year-old girl, that's a different story. A woman's love for SW is usually a sign of good taste!

Jacqueline Taero: I totally disagree with your perception of Kenobi being a technophobe. What Kenobi was saying is that he had witnessed his former friend becoming cold, unfeeling, like an automaton with singleness of purpose and caught in the grip of a power which Kenobi can no longer fathom being broken. If it helps, I can understand Kenobi's pessimism because I've lost several good friends who dabbled with godsmack out of curiosity and fell through the cracks. If they get out alive, I'd be very surprised.

Marti Schuller: The Luke/Leia conversation on Endor, regardless of how awkward it may seem to some, was a necessary scene in ROTJ. The lighting favors the mood of the subject matter. This is a dark and uncomfortable territory for them both. Hell, it was a hard pill for *me* to swallow, listening to them discuss their heritage.

Veronica Wilson: Jedi breeder? Smacks of *Dune's*

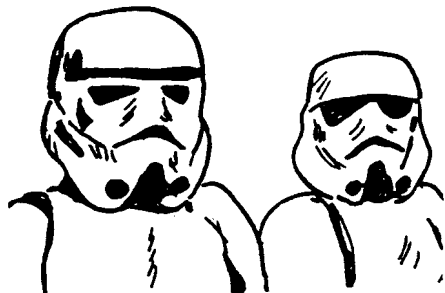
Bene Gesserit sisterhood trying to breed the bloodlines to create the Kwisatz Haderach. Let's say that if a Jedi is a Kwisatz Haderach, then the temptations of the Dark Side of the Force are each Jedi's gom jabbar. Heredity, power and influence play major factors in both the Dune Chronicles and the SW saga.

You mentioned Vader's seemingly casual disregard for the lives of the military men around him in TESB, and the desperation angle is a sound one. Luke has his own frustrations dealing with his legacy, but flubbed up his training a few times and asked his mentors a lot of touchy questions. All Vader wanted was his boy, at any cost. Probably why he enlisted the best bounty hunters in the galaxy to bait Luke with his friends' suffering; he was strangling the Empire's best officers! There's more to it than this, of course, but I'm running out of room here. Tell you what do, though, Veronica. Drop me a line, swing through Texas, we'll rap about it.

Tim Blaes: I think Carrie Fisher certainly could do a great job penning a SW novel. Hell, I'd read it! I think she'd tone it down on the ribaldry; she wouldn't place the SW concept in jeopardy, like some people have been known to do. You notice that Marvel doesn't get too much mention these days, though the series did have its sporadic high points. And I'll say it again, I've dealt with enough women in my adventure-filled 26 years to feel just fine around them. I respect them, it's easy for me to befriend them, and they're great. I'm hardly *intimidated* by them ... but I love it when they bite. Well, for the right reasons, anyway. Ah, geez, why are we talking about this? Somebody could get hurt!

Debbie Kittle: Yeah, another one out on the Rim! That's thinking sideways. It's easy to find the dumb orphans when forced into a vapor op, like a takeoff. What's a good TLA for "Loved your comments in SE#37, but I still don't like snow"? I was pretty sure that Winter had to be the spy, too, but the solution to Delta Source was a crazy surprise. I thought it was cool, even though a bit anti-climactic.

Well, troops, I'm probably overexerting myself at the typewriter, and it is getting late. Have fun, y'all, and we'll do it again next time. Race the Run Adrift!



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December 16, 1993

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! I must say the recession is teaching an *awful* lot of us that we can still have lots of fun without spending a fortune! Not necessarily a bad thing -- perhaps *this* Life Day was the one when we remembered what it's really all about!

And in that spirit of goodwill, peace on earth, etc., etc., I'd *loooove* to address Yvette Ghilan's question about zine piracy! My dear Yvette! I venture to say that your letter is going to cause some heat in the next SE! But, since you probably expected that (brave soul that you obviously are!) let me put my two credits worth in. First of all, you suggest that it's complimentary when someone pirates a zine. Welllll, that's a good way to be complimented out of your savings! As you pointed out, we don't make a profit on our zines (or we're not supposed to). However, when someone else pirates a zine *they're* making a profit -- and the zine editor often is unable to recoup their losses. Furthermore, the pirate is making a profit without putting in any effort. I don't know about you, but it takes me a year or more (my latest work took four and a half years -- by the time it gets to MediaWest for its big debut, it'll be five years) to put out a good zine. That means hours upon hours of labor, expense and blood, sweat, and tears. To be "complimented" by having someone else sell my zine so *they* can make a profit doesn't do much for my sense of wellbeing. To address your concern that we're taking from Uncle George anyway, so what right do we have to gripe? Lucas knows we're playing in his sandbox -- he once even had a panel set up to read the zines to ensure that nothing he considered unfavorable got through. And since we're not making a profit on George's work -- although we *are* putting out money to get the zines produced -- I think we're entitled to gripe when someone steals from us.

I'd also like to address one other point you make regarding people who prefer something a little -- different -- from mainline zines. I tend to agree with you (puritan upbringing that I've had, personal beliefs and all that!) But, while I far and away prefer SW as Uncle George gave it to us, I will defend and support anyone's right to read whatever they like without being called to task for it. You certainly have the

right to make your point in SE, since that's what these pages are all about, and it would be a pretty dull world if we all thought alike! However, Yvette, it takes all kinds to make a world. Read what you like, buy what you prefer, but remember that not everyone thinks as you do and fandom is large and diversified. Now, if your point had been put forward as a debate (a *friendly* debate) I might have cheerfully jumped into the fray, voicing my opinion and preference. But I will *not* lump people into one all-encompassing category labeled "Foul" -- I'm not perfect enough yet to offer those kinds of judgments.

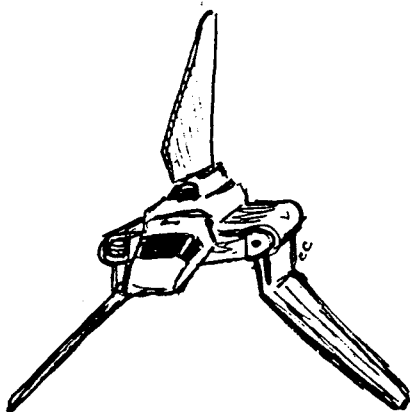
HO-KAY!! What other ways can I get into trouble? Hmmm, let's see. Oh, boy!

Jacqueline Taero: Oh poet extraordinaire! I do but disagree! I really don't believe that the so-called Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke or that the ROTJ v. TESB debates are necessarily unfriendly things! Of course, having been in the fandom only five or six years I'm sure I missed the grit and mudslinging that I hear occurred. But, to my way of thinking, these are just opinions that are fun to dash about -- and I enjoy getting another point of view, even though I may disagree and will voice another opinion. As I mentioned to Yvette, voicing an opposite opinion isn't the crime -- it's the way it's done, I think.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: You've got to stop doing this to me. "As Yoda said, I'll be short"??? ARRRRGGGHHH!!! I think you ought to use this line in a zine story! *Somewhere* it must fit in!!

Z.P. Florian: Z.P, I'm still reeling over the breathtaking illos you rendered for my story. WOW!! Also, your writing tips were right on and helpful. Howzabout conducting a panel at next year's MW*C?

Sorry to cut this short this time 'round, folks, but Christmas pressures beckon! May everyone have the best New Year they've ever had. Blessings to all.



Yvette Ghilan
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December 19, 1993

Hello everybody! This is about issue #37 of SE: it's great! I, too, have noticed that the quality of the letters is improving. I now find so many subjects, thoughtfully treated that I can't wait to put in my half-shekel's worth, and am sure "Ed" won't have the room for all I want to say...

First of all, if there were prizes for the best LoC or parts thereof, my vote for #37 would easily be a tie for two caricatures: (1) the priceless drawing by Tina Bentrup on page 51 (Luke the Wimp, Leia the Bitch, and Han the Idiot) that had me laughing so hard I almost dropped the zine, and (2) the delightful one-paragraph micro-story about Han and Boba on page 76 by Liz Sharpe. Liz, you're a genius!

Now for more serious matters:

Tina Bentrup and Catrina Campbell: Obi-Wan Kenobi is a Jedi. An Adept, who can perceive and enter a larger world; who can access the Force and use it and teach it. His vision is broad and spans generations: he knows that Luke is the New Hope for saving the Galaxy, the key to a future without Palpatine and Darth Vader. His personality is complex and vast and strange to us. His considerations include the whole Galaxy, not just his immediate friends and family; the past and the future, not just the present; History, not just the consequences of his own actions.

Obi-Wan Kenobi had escaped the purge of the Jedi, 20 years before. He understands Destiny, he knows: he is to watch over the New Hope until grown up, then to plant the seed that will turn him to the Force; to point him in the right direction. Obi-Wan has been living with a great burden: his error in judgment was what created Vader. He was not strong enough to restrain Anakin when training him in the Force -- as Yoda would have been -- and Anakin turned to the Dark Side. Now, he has the opportunity to redeem himself by turning Luke to the Force and, later, by dying for him.

Luke's destiny is to be a Jedi: to that end he should admire his Jedi father and want to emulate him; Luke's destiny is to save the Galaxy: to that end, he should hate the Empire and destroy Vader. Ben Kenobi tells Luke what is necessary to make it so; that he is the son of a Jedi, excellent and beloved; and that Darth Vader betrayed and murdered his father. Both

statements are true; the "certain point of view" is very factual: Anakin is quite gone once the Emperor has seduced him and converted him and taken away his memory. Yet Obi-Wan also tells Luke other things, background-material things, about his uncle and his father. These are not true at all, but will fill the gap in his story, as it's quite impossible to tell Luke at this juncture, "You are Darth Vader's son." Yes, Obi-Wan Kenobi lies. But wouldn't we have lied, too, in a situation where, for instance, we had known about Hitler in time and found someone to kill him? Wouldn't we have told that someone anything and everything to accomplish our purpose? And we are only Earth people, without access to History.

About Ben Kenobi, the man, we know little. Only that while being a Jedi, a Knight of Defense, he became a general in the War. That he valued friendship above all else, and loved his pupil, his friend, dearly (perhaps Anakin was a substitute for a son he never had or who died?). We poignantly try to imagine the pain he must have felt at the way he lost him and can understand that while watching from afar over Luke to grow up, he has turned all his hopes and love on him. In spite of this love, he knows what he must do to save the Galaxy: Luke is the Last Hope, the Only Hope; an Instrument to be made into a weapon. Obi-Wan Kenobi, himself an Instrument, does it. In his life as in his death, he is always a Jedi first and a man second.

Catriona Campbell again: Dear Miss Goody Two Shoes, Han Solo is *not* a criminal! My point was that, with a criminal government, such as a dictatorship, smuggling is not necessarily a crime. Smuggling, by definition, is not paying the authorities when transporting merchandise. If the authorities are the Mob, I don't see the crime. About your offer to send you material: Thanks, I may take you up on it when I've finished some of what I'm doing at the moment if it fits your zine; my output is mostly short stories and poems, with the occasional article.

Gerald Crotty: So David Lynch almost directed ROTJ? Thank the Force he destroyed *Dune* instead! Did you read his comments (in *Starlog* or *Cinefantastique*, I forget which) that he dislikes science fiction? That's how *Dune* looks: as if made by someone who hates it. All those great special effects and good actors, and it came out so forgettable... I totally agree about *Jurassic Park*. This one's an unforgettable experience! On another subject: has anyone yet marketed a home VCR that copies PAL videocassettes into NTSC and vice-versa and doesn't cost thousands of dollars?

Jacqueline Taero: Droids are a fascinating topic! Have you noticed how different the conception of robots is in the SW galaxy and in our own? Isaac Asimov, who in the 1940's practically invented the way we conceive of robots, also invented the poignant "Pinocchio" idea: that a robot would be sentient but without a "soul"; that he would sense but feel neither emotions nor pain. Data, of *ST:TNG*, still follows that classic pattern, that of R. Daneel Olivaw. But, oh, how different are the droids of SW! Not only are they called "droids" (for "android", meaning man-like) and not "robots" ("laborers"), but they are a great deal more than just a casing with sensors and a computer inside. They have personalities and emotions, they suffer physical pain, they complain, they have bad habits. They have a "soul." While not all of them may have as much of a personality as Threepio and Artoo, who've kept the same memories without erasure for a long time (Lucas said that they were -- would be -- present as "chroniclers" from Episode I to Episode IX -- time to develop many quirks), droids in that galaxy not only sense but feel, and emote. Maybe we will find out when we finally build our own real droids (not what the industry calls "robots" at the moment) that if a machine is made sufficiently complex to become sentient, both pain and emotion will ensue. That it will have a "soul." ((Ed: *Then again, that might not be a good thing. Consider SkyNet in the Terminator movies and Colossus: The Forbin Project!*))

An interesting fact in that pluralistic galaxy, where sentients come in a million shapes and all rub elbows, is that there is prejudice, bigotry, against droids. We see it expressed not by the good people, such as Obi-Wan, Luke, Leia or the technicians in the Alliance; but by the simpler folk: the cantina bartender and -- Han Solo. (And Lando Calrissian, too.) We don't see any bigotry in that galaxy ever directed against any biological beings, but against the unfortunate metal sentients, manufactured to serve the flesh beings.

All your questions are valid and probably everything is possible in different circumstances (droids as spies sounds very probable). They open up a lot of possibilities for stories...

Speaking of Asimov, I can't find that LoC again that said that with his death, the Foundation series was now incomplete, or some such. (Please forgive me, whoever it was!) Just want to say that Asimov *did* complete the Foundation series. He ended it just before his death in April 1992 with *Forward the Foundation*, a large paperback I just bought. It's copyrighted 1993, printed by Doubleday in Great

Britain and presumably the States, too. Asimov's dedicatory reads: "To all my loyal readers." May the Force be with him in his next life.

To all of you who reacted angrily "what, no clocks?": I said there were no *timepieces* in evidence, never that there was *no timekeeping*, which there certainly must be: they probably have Galactic time, and planetary time, and local time, and ship's time, and Imperial time, and who knows what else. And Han once mentions time (the only mention in the Saga) when he tells the officer of the strike team on Endor, "We'll meet at the shield generator at 0300." Yet no one ever looks at their wrist, their belt, or their computer.

I find this absence of visible timepieces very intriguing. What I think it indicates is an internal timekeeping system, a program, probably micro-surgically implanted in the molecules of the sentient's brain, running on the nerves' electricity; something similar in concept to the "clocks" we have in our computers, but so miniaturized they fit inside a brain cell. This kind of thing should be quite simple to make and to install for such an ancient technological civilization. And imagine the convenience! I wish I had such an implant, right now (Sunday, December 19, 1993 on my paper wall calendar, 4:17 p.m. on my plastic wall clock ... clumsy, primitive things!).

Here I must say that, while I know that some of you gentlefolk take your authority from all kinds of sources (including Brian Daley), I take it solely from what I see and hear in the three movies. All the waste of paper and tapes surrounding them are just interpretations of the truth we see, and no more valid than our own fanfic (which some seem to accept as "canon", too -- that's what ultimately comes of *that*!).

So, when I say "no paper in the Saga", I mean what I see in the movies, what we all see: no paper, no mylar, no foil, no parchment, no papyrus or linen. Oh, I'm sure that in that immense Galaxy there are worlds and countries on those worlds, where they're still using the equivalent of typewriters, goosequills, wax tablets or clay tablets! And peoples, such as the Ewoks, who are still completely illiterate (*if* they are, we have no evidence either way, it's just that their society *looks* illiterate). But I meant the *civilized* galaxy, the thousands, millions, of systems that have had technology for at least several thousand years; that have had the comlink, hyperdrive, anti-gravity, cloaking devices, force-fields, life-detectors, and sentient computers, cybers and droids, for generations. Speaking of generations, it's quite interesting that the "competition" over there on TV (ST First and Next)

should also have tumbled to this fact of life: a star-traveling civilization, with all the technology it implies, has no use for newspapers, magazines, printouts, file cards, notepaper, posters, tickets, notebooks, reference or other books. You, the computer-net accessors, know that already we are dispensing with a great many of these and our own post-lettering age has only just dawned! Check it out, in the 24th and 25th centuries of the Milky Way Galaxy (ours), they use no paper either, according to the Star Trekkers. Of course, in reality, it'll go much faster, as always. One day in the 21st Century, some of us (the younger) will already read only electronic "newspapers", make notes only in our computers and write letters only by modem. If we'll own books or paintings, it'll be only as Kirk and Picard do: as antiques, for their beauty and value. And our SW posters will be made not of paper or mylar but of light: holograms. (Except for those original "Revenge of the Jedi" posters, costing \$10,000). And that's in *our* galaxy, in our one-planet system that's had technology for scarcely a hundred and fifty years...

About art: I, too, think that there must be thousands of art forms and millions of artistic techniques in the SW galaxy. We see precious little of it in the Saga, except for architecture and interior decoration on Cloud City (which is breathtaking); the grandiose and frightening Imperial throne room and landing bays on the second Death Star; and the elegant design of Imperial shuttles. The reason must be that we are shown a galaxy at war: the people are in uniform on battlefields and we never see any home environments except on Tatooine and Dagobah -- scarcely representative of a Galactic culture! I keep trying to imagine what dwellings and public gathering places may have looked like on really advanced worlds, like Alderaan and the Imperial Capital...

Why is everyone knocking the Ewoks? What's the matter with them? That they are (whisper it) *cute*? Just as not everything that's ugly and dirty is artistic, so not all that's good-looking or sweet is corny. For some people, it is "politically correct" to retch when faced by love; or fall all over themselves in admiration of excremental "art"; we don't have to all follow suit. And primitive guerrillas will defeat great technological powers every time, especially on forest and jungle terrain. Have we forgotten how both France and the US lost the war in Vietnam?

What some of you say about how cozy it must be to live under a dictatorship deserves an answer, too; but I'll leave that for next time -- and don't you dare stop publishing SE, Cheree, you hear?

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December 9, 1993

First of all, thanks for the big, fat new ish of SE. And finally here's a deadline that even the laziest Corellian can meet -- February 1st. The cause of this is, of course, not so nice and, as I already mentioned in my Xmas card to you, I am sorry to hear about your personal trouble. Actually, my heart goes out to everybody who has recently had (or is -- hopefully not -- having some bad luck. My fingers are crossed for you all.

On to the brighter side of the Force...

I had a wonderful time in the U.S. again, riding a too-good-to-be-true horse, surviving (unscathed) a car wreck, and meeting with Leanne Wingo and Ming Wathne -- the highlights of my trip. By now I have seen *The Fugitive* twice (once in the US and once here in Germany in the dubbed version). *Great* movie. Did you see *Jurassic Park*, too? The music is another classic by the incomparable John Williams and the tricks are A1. But still I like the book better. Now I'm very impatiently waiting for the next Indy movie. Hey, girls ... anyone else "hot for the hat"?

And now the LoCs ... short and sweet (a) because I still suffer the after effects of a 10 day battle with the flu, and (b) because I'm missing my office 'puter for this garbage...

Debbie Kittle: You pay only \$45 for the Screaming Model of Han Solo? Here the model sells for DM 179.95 (about \$103)!!! Call that outrageous. Also, I envy you and anyone else able to receive the SFC and with it such goodies as Princess Leia Orgasm ... uh, sorry, Organa narrating the presentation of the trilogy. Arrgh! Why do I have to vegetate here on the outer rim while the bright center of the universe is having fun?

Z. P.: "Dirty Tricks..."

The day before... *Where was Han...*

According to the novelization of ANH, when Ben and Luke entered the cantina, Has was sitting with a humanoid (not human!) female on his lap -- let's just assume he did some "business" with her in an upstairs establishment before spending his last credits on booze in the cantina.

Plot... *What can go wrong with the Falcon...*

Everything. The old lady is coming apart at the seams anyhow.

If you have a story... *first person singular...*

My speciality.

...*can it be trimmed...*

Ask "Dear Ed."

...*pouring rain...*

A Tatooinian voice: Force, hear my prayer. Then I don't have to repair the vaporators anymore.

Ethnic habits... *Corellian funerals...*

Pirates are cremated, their ashes filled into hourglasses ... so that at least at the end of their miserable lives they will have to work.

...*Alderaani marriage rules...*

Do you, unlucky bridegroom of Her Highness, solemnly swear always to obey your wife's commands, warm her icy tootsies on cold Hoth nights, turn all your hard earned credits over to her and be happy and content with a monthly allowance of 10 credits, and will you satisfy her sexual needs whenever and wherever she wants you to? Answer with "no" and you receive a one-way ticket to Kessel.

...*Huttese style revenge...*

Hutts simply sit down on their adversary's lap.

...*Who are the Bothans?*

Idealistic, masochistic fools -- obviously.

...*Does Ackbar swim?*

Admirals do not have to swim themselves ... they have enough subordinates to do it for them.

...*Tatooine school system...*

I heard they have 4-H projects: the "Future Sandfarmers of Tatooine" raise sandfleas for the county fair.

...*Wookiee health care...*

Treatment for an overfilled stomach -- read the collected speeches of Grand Moff Tarkin or smell Corellian underwear ... the stomach will empty itself within seconds.

...*Mos Eisley work permits...*

Unnecessary ... since nobody in that wretched hive of scum and villainy works for a living.

...*Bespin city cleaners...*

The severed hand was -- like the rest of the garbage -- jettisoned via the long "waterslide tube" and plunked down to the surface of the gas planet.

Marti Schuller: Sorry, but... You do not like the idea that Beru and Luke's mom were sisters? Ben and Owen as brothers -- and that's enough. Hm, then just *how* is Luke related to Uncle Owen? Is he the child of Anakin Skywalker and Ben Kenobi? Not likely. So it's either: Luke's mom/Darthie's ball-and-chain was (a) a sister of Owen and Ben, (b) a daughter of Ben (that would make Owen Luke's grand-uncle), (c) a sister of Beru, or Anakin was (a) a

brother of Owen and Ben, (b) a brother of Beru, or (c) a son of Ben (that would make Owen Luke's granduncle). Anything else is impossible.

Nora Mayers: Agree 100% with you about Harrison's interviews. He's thorough and soft-spoken and often takes his time formulating his answers, but boring he's not. He has a very dry, sardonic sense of humor that kills me. He has a way of answering the often stupid, superficial questions of the media people with sarcastic answers like no other celeb near and far.

Mary Jo Fox: So Wedge is the culprit. Congrats, daddy! Makes for a nice follow-up story. Any takers? No love scenes because of the kiddies? Hm, George probably had the children from his own generation in mind, who were not weaned on hardcore porn and splatter movies like today's kids.

Charyl Perry: Good to hear from you. Ah ... a victim for my warped sense of humor. You are hopefully aware that you pried open another one of Pandora's boxes with your call for comedy/slapstick. "They came from ... where?!" Just keep it up, old buddy. You are heading in the right direction. My, this gutter's getting crowded.

Barbara Anderson: Safari trophy, huh? Neat idea for an alternate ending story (hint, hint!). Agree with you about the character not being kept *in* character by inconsistent writing. Actually, I would love to see what ROTJ would look like had Irv Kershner directed it. Or would Spielberg have been a good choice? And about the writing: story by Alan Dean Foster, script by G. Katz/W. Huyck or Meno Meijes?

Tina Bentrup: Stahlriesenheld? Ya mean Gridface? Old Doomsday? Black Beauty? Make-my-day Darthie? Well, Darth Vader is Darth Vader. No German translation for him. Remember, you can mangle the names of just about everybody in the universe, but you do not mess with the Man in Black! The cartoon is priceless.

Ming Wathne: Thanks for welcoming me to your house/SW shrine. It was fantastic. HM-WAH! (Smooch) I bet the guy at the "Marie Callender's" still is shaking his head, wondering what rubber room we two escaped from...

And about poor old Uncle Owen, you should hear him in the German version of ANH. He sounds like a crossbreed between a martinet and Grouchy of the 7 dwarfs.

Liz Sharpe: Love your self-description. And I certainly hope that this "alternate ending" was a preview of a 30+ page story you are concocting at the moment. Do not disappoint me...

Okay, that's it for the moment, folks. Hope that all of you out there have had great holidays and that 1994 will be a super year in every respect for everybody. Looking forward to read y'all in the next ish, I'm yours slaphappily...

Thankful

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November 22, 1993

As we approach the holiday of Thanksgiving, I find myself giving thanks for the many things I take for granted over the year. This year I've been reminded that I have a wonderful "extended family" in fandom, which is very important to me, since I have no parents or grandparents living, and the few amount of other relatives I have (brothers, cousins, aunts, uncles, neices and nephews) don't keep in touch. Fandom is my family and I love all of you. And I felt it was about time that I write to SE to express my feelings to those of you I know, but whom I don't reach through Forces of the Empire. I feel very lucky to have met a lot of you, or at least to be involved in the same fandom with you. Thanks to all of you for being there, and for all the wonderful contributions you have made to SW fandom. Many of you were there before me (Maggie Nowakowska, Joyce Yasner, Paula Truelove, and many others) and were the inspiration I needed to get involved myself.

Regarding #37, I found it great as usual. Thanks for the transcript of "The State of the Union" panel. It was a pleasure to read what went on at this panel, since I was unable to attend because of scheduling conflicts. It sounds like it was great! I liked the comments about us helping to support each other and am willing to trade ads with anyone who wants to send me one for our newsletter, *Bound by the Force*. I also noticed there were some comments about FOE, mostly wondering what we are all about... With Cheree's permission, I'd like to try to briefly explain us. Yes, we are a role-playing club. But we are also a writing club. Our stories are predominantly about our club personas, but many of them are well written and some plots are downright devious! Starting with *Tales from the Cantina* #2, we plan to include a

biography section in the rear, which will contain bios of the characters used in the stories, to help the reader keep track of who's who. I really don't see much difference between our stories and some you find in mainline fanzines where they introduce new characters who were not in the movies. We just also use ours to role-play with. The role-playing is a natural extension of that writing and is used in many cases just to act out scenes to get a more realistic feel to them. The main difference is that while most zine stories are written by one person, ours are sometimes written by many in an interactive style, something akin to the Thieves World books. We do have many members, though, to whom the role-playing is the main event, and we all do have fun with the role-playing.

We are planning to have an in-depth panel at MWC next May, open to all interested parties, where we will field questions about FOE and try to explain the club and the Blaster Battle, and where we feel we "fit in" to the SW universe.

Enough on that... I would also like to comment on the Editor's Page, "Real Life Strikes Back." This seems to be a time of trial for many of us. It seems like everyone I know is having some sort of difficulty. I, myself, am desperately seeking a decent job, which pays a decent salary and for now am barely able to make ends meet. It seems like everytime you get your head above water these days, the waters flood again. I think Cheree's done a fantastic job with SE and I, for one, would rather stand behind her and see a temporary hiatus while she gets things back on track. "Mundanity Burnout" can be impossible to cope with. I wish Cheree and Randy the best of luck, and hope to see SE back on schedule soon.

By the way, I enjoy the variety of newspaper clippings and cartoons you run. We don't run them in our newsletter much because our printers won't print them without written permission from the author/artist, and the editor of each piece. They were burned badly once on copyright infringement and now are overly cautious on what they'll print. *((Ed: I've had that question raised before but have never had any problem with it. I wish I could print all the clippings people send me, but it would add an additional 20 or so pages to each issue. Yeah, yeah, I know you all would LIKE an additional 20 pages, but let's get real here!))*

I know this is getting a bit long, but I would also like to make a few comments to some things others wrote last time.

Marti Schuller: I agree with you about *The Guyver*. I thought it was very cheap and poorly done. I was among the few fans who really liked *Slipstream*,

but I thought *The Guyver* was a definite step down. Oh, and regarding ROTJ bashing -- I had my problems with that movie, and can bash it with the best of them, *but* just because we rip something apart doesn't mean we hate it. There were things I'd like to have seen done differently, but I still loved the movie, and own more than one copy of it in my video collection.

Nora Mayers: It's always great to find another Ian Malcolm fan (*Jurassic Park*), and I also feel Jeff Goldblum did a great job. (I have to admit I saw the movie before I read the book.)

Mary Jo Fox and Yvette Ghilan: Sorry, I have to disagree that ST:TNG and ST:DS9 copied the strong woman from SW. First of all, keep in mind that the original "Number One" in the classic Trek pilot episode of "The Cage" was played as a very strong female. The network didn't like it and shot her down, but the stage was set for the future. I think the current tendency for stronger female characters is more an evolution of society than a copying of what came before. The 60's just weren't ready yet. The late '70's were more ready, but you have to admit that even with Leia as strong as she was, she was the only strong female role in the entire trilogy! Oh, sure, there was Mon Mothma, but I really feel she was a bit two-dimensional to count as a strong role. They just didn't take the time to do much with that character. Much more has been done in fan fiction about her. But, now, the time is right and the public is not only ready for the stronger female roles, it demands them. And I know I'm probably going to get a bunch of hate mail on this, but I don't really see Leia as being *that* strong of a character. I feel she did too much whining and complaining, and was used by the Alliance as much for a figurehead to draw people together, as she was used for her strength. Don't get me wrong. I like Leia. And yes, she was strong. I just don't see her as the ultimate role model of the modern female image.

Louise Turner: You can rest assured that if our reminiscences about MWC tend to turn those of you who can't make it a bit green with envy, that there are those of us who are equally envious of those of you in other countries! I dream of someday being able to travel to Scotland -- land of my ancestral roots (well, some of them, anyway -- the ones I identify the most with) -- and I am equally sure I'll never be able to afford it. MWC is fun, though, and I really hope you will someday get to experience it in person!

I also want to comment that I enjoyed your comparison of the social structure of SW to that of the Soviet Union. I find it a very apt comparison, and very well thought out. Next time I write a post-ROTJ

story, I will have to keep that in mind.

And *thank you!* for being another fan who is not enchanted with the Zahn books! While I found a few elements of interest in the first book (key word: few), I was never able to finish it, and so never bothered with the other two. And I also agree that C. J. Cherryh would have done a much better job. My main gripe with Zahn is that overall, I felt he was trying too hard to turn it into his own universe, rather than simply expand on an already established one. And I found his writing so bogged down in unpronounceable names and technicalese, that it lost the romance and fantasy of the movies. SW -- the trilogy -- was a fantasy. Mr. Zahn writes science fiction. There is a difference.

Cheree: I want to end this by saying I *really* enjoy SE, and hope the hiatus doesn't last long. Let me know if I can help out in any way!

Two Cents' Worth

Marti Schuller
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As always, I was happy to receive my copy of SE#37, but saddened to learn of your troubles, Cheree. I sincerely hope by now that your life has smoothed out somewhat and I wish Randy every success in finding fulfilling employment -- if he hasn't already. As for SE, I for one found the extended deadline of February 1 most welcome. With the usual round of joyful, but chaotic, activity accompanying the holiday season, having a bit longer to compose a coherent response for SE was rather nice. I imagine I'm not alone in this feeling either. Of course, I trust in the Force that things will work out and SE will continue for many years to come. However, should you be compelled to suspend (notice I *did not* say cease) publication for a time, I have no doubt your readers will overcome their disappointment and continue their support of you. I know I will.

Now, on to the letters.

Mary Jo Fox: You've never met a Jedi collector?! ME!! And I'm 100% certain I'm not alone. Granted, there seems to have been more products made for Dark Siders, robot lovers or entire cast fans, but whenever I find just about anything with my fav. Jedi on it, I race for my monetary units.

Charyl Perry: Hello again and welcome to the

exciting world of SE participation! Also best of luck with your electronic zine. It sounds interesting. Please keep us low/no-tech fans apprised of the hard copy edition. I'll also look forward to that MWC '94 demo, even though I probably won't understand an iota of it.

Tammy Olsen: First, to explain MU. Cheree was correct that it stands for Missouri University. It's *the* university among the many in my state. Sorry I confused you.

Secondly, put down your lightsaber. Having sterilized Luke in "The Emperor's Revenge", why should I ever need do so again? (smile) Seriously, you say you "couldn't believe a Luke fan could do that." As I've said before, I didn't make him impotent, only unable to father children. He has enough to do without the demands of parenthood and, trust me, there *are* plenty of demands.

Maggie Nowakowska: Thank you for the lovely compliment. I've never been called "articulate" before, but it's most flattering. I will be very interested to see if, as you surmise, using sterility as a plot device is strictly a female ploy. I'll have to ask some of my non-fan, writing male friends for their input on this as well. Of course, for Luke, it really was my best option since, as you agreed, he would hardly be the type to abandon a family or child.

Yvette Ghilan: I wasn't going to respond to your letter, but having read it several times now I feel I must put in my two cents' worth. Not everyone in fandom shares your ideas on what constitutes a "demolition job" of a story. Personally, I've found few alternate fictions to my taste, but I would never presume to suggest they be excluded from a mainstream zine. One person's "smut" is another's art. What you find offensive, I might find satirical or just outright funny. If you want homogenized fandom, brother, you are in the wrong set. Try Disney. Otherwise, accept that zines will contain stories you won't care for, comment on them in an LoC if you're that upset, and go on enjoying the stories you find to your personal tastes. Or start your own G-rated zine. It's a big playground. There's room for us all and I honestly hope we're adult enough to avoid name-calling and shoving matches. You're entitled to your opinions, as are we all, but don't presume so many others share yours and are just too timid to speak out. I haven't met too many timid SW fans. Outspoken, yes. Opinionated, yes. But also willing to give that other person their say, too. As for me, I'll resort to that stale, but oh-so-true expression, "To each his own." Or, if you prefer, "Live and let live."

Jennifer Moore: I enjoyed your parallel between Owen and Han. I confess it's not one I'd considered before, but your reasoning is sound. Nice point.

Debbie Kittle: I hope you're getting the winter you crave, though from the newscasts recently, I gather you are. As for me, I believe I could happily live in a domed city where it only rains between 2 and 4 a.m. I'd make occasional jaunts outside to see "real" weather, I suppose, but the whole idea appeals to me immensely. Snow is lovely and does hide a lot of ugliness -- at least momentarily. I enjoy sitting in my warm house, with my loved ones safely near, and watching a good snowfall, but driving on slippery roadways is not a pastime I relish!

Louise Turner: Worldcon in Glasgow in '95? Wouldn't I just love to be there! Now, where'd I put that winning lottery ticket?

Gerald Crotty: Where did you see an extended version of *The Abyss*? A whole 28 minutes of added scenes? Where? Were they at the end, in the middle, scattered? Tell, tell -- please. I loved that movie and really want to know more about this.

Jacqueline Taero: I'd like to applaud you for finally saying what I've felt all along re the three films and personal taste.

As for why Lucas may have opted to make Luke and Leia twins instead of just siblings, I suspect he felt as twins they would share that mysterious bond so frequently reported among twins. Such a bond would enhance their Force connection and also avoid neatly the question of who's eldest. I have fraternal twin brothers-in-law and, though their link is seldom manifested, it has occurred enough to convince me of its authenticity.

Tim Blaes: I like that mental image of Vader carrying the unconscious princess back to her cell after Alderaan's wanton destruction. I'm sure I'll "see" it everytime I view the film now. I know Veronica will love it.

One last word before I go. Though I was not able to purchase the newest SW plate collection, having seen the flyer for the ROTJ issue courtesy of a friend, I'm glad I didn't get started with them. While I'm a diehard Luke fan, to omit Han and Vader from this final plate is unbelievable! Does everyone else feel the same?

Well, to Catriona, Veronica, and everyone else I didn't directly comment to this time, I hope you all have a wonderful spring. I'm looking forward eagerly to meeting many of you again at MWC. May 1994 be better -- in every way -- for us all! Peace.

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January 10, 1994

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to one and all. Hope everyone's Holidays were wonderful. Mine was great. I got a white Christmas! Only an inch but I will take whatever I can get! It was very nice and to top off the year just right, we had 3 more inches 3 days later. I couldn't ask for a nicer ending of the year than that. Of course, having it snow for the New Year...

Lots of new SW stuff to mention: The new book, *Truce at Bakura*, is out and has been devoured in record time. Great book, so much better than Zahn's group, these are the characters as we know them. How does everyone else feel?

The new SW bend 'ems are out. There are 9 of them -- OWK, Luke, Leia, Chewie, R2, 3PO, DV, Yoda and Stormtrooper. There is also a 4 pack that has DV, Trooper and the droids. The 8 pack is the best. It has 2 new ones that won't be available separately as far as I know. There is an Emperor and Wicket. There is no OWK, no Yoda and no Chewie in the pack. All can be found at Toys R Us except the 8 pack. That's at K Mart.

I just got the first 2 pieces to the SW pewter chess set. I got an Ewok pawn that has a removable spear and the King for the Alliance. It's Ben and Yoda together. They are so beautiful. I am expecting the chessboard any day now. I will be bringing the set with me to MW as I should have 6 pieces by then. Will be happy to show it off to anyone who wants to see.

Mark Hamill was on QVC again in October. Some nice new pieces available and Mark was great as usual. I picked up the pewter *Falcon* made by Rawcliffe. The radar dish and both upper and lower gun turrets swivel. It is so very beautiful.

George was on *Entertainment Tonight* a few months ago. He talked about SW. The new movies will take place about 40 years prior to ANH and be "much more about betrayals and those kinds of issues." One thing that irked me was his laugh as he mentions there will be OWK, Anakin and Mrs. Skywalker. Does he not know her name yet or is he just toying with us?? Anyway, screenplay is set to be started in 6 months from November. Let's hope so!

There is also new Suncoast figures: Leia, Chewie, Luke as a Jedi, R2, 3PO. The droids are really good.

Also just out are the Galoob Micro Machines. A set of 3 ships from each movie. These are really neat. The *Falcon*, Star Destroyer and X-Wing in SW; AT-AT (with moveable head), Snowspeeder and TIE Fighter in ESB; and AT-ST, Sail Barge and B-Wing Fighter in ROTJ. I think 1994 will bring us some great stuff...

Marti: What can I say? I'm different. I love snow and look forward to this season. On Xmas night during the 1 inch fall, I went out and played a bit. I had just taken a shower and had wet hair. Do I love snow or what??!!

Blood on the floor of the dungeon? A good possibility.

Body Bags was a great movie! Bloody and disgusting! Just the way I like my films. I think Mark did a decent job in it especially when he stuck the gardening shears through his eye.

Nora: Good to spend time with you at our Trilogy party. Hope we can get together more in the future.

Agree wholeheartedly with you about Han.

Ming comes to a doll and toy show the weekend after MW in the area. We'll work on getting together with you.

Mary Jo: It was great to meet you finally and spend time with you at the Trilogy party also. Hope to do it again soon. Great job done on *Blue Harvest*!

Charyl: Yes, LFL newsletter is Lucasfilm's publication.

I see droids being mass produced to some extent and being bought by well off or comfortable-income peoples and businesses. Of course, the Empire would need their share for work as well as the Alliance. I could see the Alliance raiding these droid factories to get what they need & extend that to Imp. outposts. The latter would provide them with more info. The reverse could be true as well that the Empire would gain much from Rebel droids.

A.G.: Loved your reference to Shatner and the white cane and knocking over furniture.

I guess I should have put "thing" in quotes. I guess I could've used "body" instead. I'll watch my words from now on.

Elsa is Luke's mother! A tabloid heading?!

Carolyn Cooper: Hi. Glad to see your return. Haven't heard any rumors about Mark and he certainly didn't mention returning to the new SW movies on QVC.

Tammy: I've picked up both ties -- one of the DS trench and the one of all the characters. Both are great. Love the T-shirts and have them all as well. I thought all Suncoasts would be getting the dolls in. If

you want any, drop me a line. Yes, the DE Sourcebook is very nice. The cover is a great pic of Luke.

Yvette: What a way to see the Trilogy. Three years is a long time between movies, long enough to vegetate and stew about what should be, what we want to see. That certainly could contribute.

Love your defense of Han. Nicely put.

I, myself, am interested in the smutline. I'm curious mostly. It's been discussed at MW and in SE for years, mostly as a joke and now it's coming to life. As long as it's tastefully done and I trust Z. P. to do that. I am looking forward to it.

I'll be wishing some snow for you.

Barbara: A very interesting mental picture you have of me. (Z. P., don't you dare pick up that pen!!). I certainly try to let everyone know everything-some of us live in isolated areas. I know I'd feel let down/left out if a new item came out and everyone but me knew about it.

I'd certainly be willing to help anyone get any of the new items. Living close to the DC area, I'm pretty lucky to see most everything, unlike Ming. She lives in one of the largest states and in a town I feel would have a good supply of stores. However, she has a poor excuse for a bookstore near her. I'd die without a well-stocked bookstore!

In response to your question you posed to Mary Jo about the Ewoks gathering all those logs and stuff, seemingly overnight. That struck me as odd, too. Then I realized the Empire had to have been on Endor for awhile, probably months. The Ewoks had plenty of time to prepare things and take back their home.

I don't think the Imps cared about them or what they did so long as it didn't interfere with the Empire and its work. If the Imps did care, the Ewoks would've been enslaved or worse, wiped out. I know a few people who would've liked that.

I, too, admit going to Creation Cons. I go to get my "con fix", see my friends and see some great guests. I saw Patrick Stewart over Labor Day and it was great to see him recite "Julius Caesar" on stage. Next week is the *Imzadi Tour* and we are looking forward to that.

Catherine: That wall was also one of my favorite scenes from the doll show. Perhaps in a few years we can do the Endor revelation scene. Z. P. gets credit for all those boards. They were great!

Tina: That's great that you got to see ANH on the big screen. I missed that film when it first came out so am looking forward to hopefully seeing it on a big screen near me this year as I believe the films will be

rereleased each year until 1997 when the new one will open.

I have that poster you got at the theater. It's available from LucasArts for \$4.95. Call 1-800-STAR WARS to get another.

Glad you were able to meet other people there. Hope it works out and you can spend time with them.

In regards to your comments to Ming, re Owen telling Luke in private that his name is Skywalker and never to repeat it, doesn't fit. I can't picture Owen doing this. He wanted Luke to be kept as far away as possible from any references to a past life.

Jennifer: Howdy! Glad you were able to make it to the Trilogy Party as well. Had a great time. (Some of the Eastern Chapter of SE -- Cheryl Pryor, Lin Ward, Nora Mayers, Mary Jo Fox, Jennifer and myself. We hope to continue the tradition). (*Ed: You guys should officially begin calling yourselves the "Eastern Enclave". Jeanine Hennig was the one who coined the term "Southern Enclave" to describe the Dallas area fan group way back about 1983. She stole that term from Maggie Nowakowska, who I think was calling the Seattle group the "First Terran Enclave." I liked the sound of it so much that, when I started this newsletter, I stole it from her!*)

I like your Han/Owen comparison. I think it certainly got Luke to accept Han in the period of time from Tatooine to Alderaan to the Death Star.

The Alliance would keep Luke's parentage closely guarded. I'm sure some races feel the progeny of the guilty must pay for the sins of the Father. Much like the Klingons, I guess. They'd wait until things settled down, perhaps in a few centuries...

Ming: I'll take my banishment to Hoth with a heartfelt THANKS!

Gerald: In all the YJIC episodes, we never know who he married. Now that Lucas & Spielberg are working on JJ4, supposedly set later than the 1st 3, let's hope he tells us who the lucky lady was. I hope it's Marion.

Treena: Certainly something I never considered re Luke not even being on record.

Can't wait to read "May The Force Be With Q"! Great title.

Fiorenzo: "Ode to the Overwhelming Qualities of Mara Jade"? How many pages is the piece??!

Cheree: Re your comments about Zahn's TLC and his writing of Leia's contractions and not telling the difference: I've seen some talk shows where women, first off, don't even know they are pregnant and second, thought labor was indigestion. They'd go into the bathroom and boom, they give birth. But do

agree that it could've been done much better.

Tim: The doll exhibit for MW '94 is the medical hospital and Hoth. The cantina scene would be a great idea especially since Cheryl Pryor and her hubby have been working with sculpture and have a few of those aliens already made. Perhaps in a year or 2.

Carrie might do some wonders for the SW literary field.

SFC is running B&B starting this week.

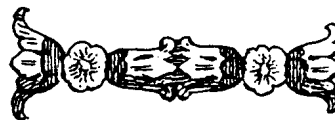
Liz: I'm delighted, too, that there is a large Eastern contingent especially around the DC area. I'll have sent off a letter to you (probably several) and I'm sure we'll be getting together especially since we live rather close together.

I'm glad the *Falcon* survived. In ST3, when Kirk blows up the *Enterprise*, I cried in the theater. It happens everytime I watch that movie and see the same scene. I'm not sure I could stand watching ROTJ if the *Falcon* were destroyed. Considering the numbers of times I've seen ROTJ compared to ST3, I'd be investing in Kleenex stock.

I think that's everything. But I did want to plug a zine story called "A Slight Misunderstanding" by Marcia Brin. It's in *Warped Space* #49. I think Marcia did a great job of putting words to Han and Leia's feeling in ROTJ. It felt right and helped put the awkwardness of the movie into place.

I hope everyone's dreams and hopes come true this year. I know mine have. They are calling for some measurable snowfall in just a few days... Ahh, winter! Fly Casually In The Force Of A Winter Storm.

A P.S. to add -- Seems *Starlog* #199 had an interview with Kevin Anderson who is doing the next trilogy of paperback books. Great article as it gives us an insight into the things that are coming out. *Jedi Search* by Kevin is due out in March, followed by #2 in June and his 3rd in September. He's helping do *The Dark Lords of the Sith* comic starting in June and it's a 12 issue set. He's doing a coffee table book of Ralph McQuarrie's art with some never before seen sketches due Christmas of 1995. He's also editing a trilogy of anthologies. The 1st is *Tales from the SW Cantina* about the aliens in the bar. The next is *Tales from Jabba's Palace* and the 3rd about the bounty hunters Vader hired in ESB. We are going to busy reading over the next few years. Also, *Starlog* says there's 15 not 12 books due to be released. I hope Ed McMahon calls me this month...



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January 18, 1994

It's been a *long* time since I've sat down and done a LOC for SE. I was one of the dinosaurs who was with it from the beginning, but a few years ago lapsed for a couple of years. I didn't realize how much I missed the fandom until I got reinvolved about 2 years ago. It's been nice seeing a number of the old familiar names -- and nice getting to meet (on paper) all the people who have just recently discovered SW fandom! I've let too many issues go by, wanting to comment on certain things, wanting to do a LOC, but somehow never getting to it.

First, something about me. I've been involved in Trek fandom since the 70's, and have been in SW fandom just about since it started. In 1988, when I semi-gafiated from SW fandom, I became involved in *Blake's 7* fandom, and with a now-science fiction media club called The Prydonians of Prynceton. The club has been in existence for over 10 years, started as a *Dr. Who* club, has a membership of about 600 and I have been its treasurer for the last year and a half. I also write fanfic and am the editor of an Indiana Jones letterzine called *Keeping Up With the Joneses*. In the mundane world, I work in the accounting department of an international travel company.

A few leftover comments from issue #36....

Veronica Wilson: You made a good point, in the discussion of the debate on Leia's virginity. The aristocracy did, throughout history, have their own code of behavior toward such things. This did occur in most societies; the one I'm most familiar with is Victorian British society, where one code of behavior was endorsed as the societal norm, whereas the aristocracy often behaved in quite the opposite fashion. I recently finished a biography of Winston Churchill, which discussed in great lengths the behavior of his mother, Jennie (well known for her many lovers) and how it fit into the norms for her social class. It was also quite frank about methods of protection commonly used during the period. Then again, one oddity of the period is that this freedom enjoyed by women of that class was only exercised (Ahem!) after marriage. A similar code on Alderaan may explain the princess' "skittishness" toward Solo in TESB. She may in fact be a virgin, but one who expects a marriage of convenience, after which she may take lovers. (I vaguely remember zine stories

which had problems develop when Han learns that his position in Leia's life would be that of "kept man" during such a marriage.)

MaggieNo: Loved the illo on the historical basis of Leia's ANH hairdo! Aside from that and Japan, a variation of that hairstyle was also popular over here in the 1920's.

Barbara Anderson: Many sympathies on the decision you had to make regarding your mother-in-law. I had to go through a similar process with my grandmother some 10 years ago. I know how hard it can be!

Had a bit of deja vu while rereading this issue -- and your descriptions of last year's blizzard. I am writing this from the midst of the blizzard/ice/freezing rain deluge of 1994! Two weeks of this weather so far. And I'm nursing a sprained knee obtained when I slipped and tried *not* to fall in the *first* of the storms! *I HATE SNOW AND ICE!!!!!!!!!!!!*

As I'd been out of the fandom for the most part for a couple of years, Sharon Saye's guide was a great help. For lack of knowledge, I've only been buying the zines I knew. This is an excellent way of telling, amongst the sea of new zine and editor names, which zines are worth spending my limited resources on.

On to the current issue. Got a giggle out of Z.P.'s "Confessions of a Writeholic". Very useful for people who have a bit of an idea, and are stuck. As well as those being chased by a Mutant Ninja Editor, and are dry on ideas or inspiration. (Hi, Agell!) Speaking of which, as the editor of an Indy letterzine I'd really *love* to get some articles as good as this (wink, wink, nudge, nudge!) Back to the serious side (of the Force?), I also must add what a lovely meaty read SE has grown into. It was always big -- but now it's *huge*! (I know, Cheree -- don't remind you!) ((Ed: *Oh, my aching fingers! And thanks from an ever-grateful editor to you lovely, lovely people who either send your LoCs on diskettes or e-mail them to me via GENie! See my editorial this issue for even more ways to get them to me!*))

Nora Mayers: Hi, buddy! Nice to see you in hard copy (as opposed to GENie reality)! I would have to agree with your comment to Tim Blaes elaborating on your statement about fans knowing the characters better than their creators. Some of it also is, I believe, the fact that keeping a character in character is a secondary consideration in a movie or TV series. The character in that case is only a tool used to tell a story. Consistency is then not important if it impedes their ability to tell a story. I would cite *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* as a good example of

this. The internal chronology is inconsistent (and this is only taking episodes into account, with no reference to the movies). This is because the primary function of each episode is to highlight a historical event, and show it through the eyes of Young Indy. For instance, he should not be able to be in college in 1920 if he is only leaving Europe in May 1919. There is no time for him to have prepared for, much less taken the entrance exam he would have to pass (especially given his lack of a high school diploma). But, were the screenwriters to go strictly on the basis of chronology, they would be unable to tell a story with an important historical lesson -- the *raison d'être* of the whole show.

Jennifer Moore: Excellent analogy about the similarities between Uncle Owen and Han. I'd never considered that before, but you're absolutely right. And Luke may not consciously realize that that is why he is accepting Han, but probably slipped into the relationship because it felt right.

Liz Sharpe: Nice to see another "old timer" make their way back to the fold. As to your explanation of Han being brainburned in ROTJWHAP!!!!!! Bad Liz!! Down Liz!!! And you can't blame it all on B7 either. We know better.

A few miscellaneous notes: Saw *Bodybags* on Showtime. Yes, Mark did look dark and bruised. I think you must have come in near the end. Toward the beginning there are a few scenes dear to the heart of any Luke Luster. Partial nudity, simulated intercourse ... and no, my tape did not come out! Got to try again when it's rebroadcast.

Have heard from a number of reliable sources that preproduction has begun on the 1st trilogy. Interesting recent report from the online service GENie -- Lucasfilm has just purchased 6 Cray supercomputers. (If I remember right, these computers used to cost over a million dollars each). Rumor has it that these are for use in the new movies, but who knows?

Well, that's about all for now. Will probably think of something else after I upload this to Cheree on GENie. (Everyone with computers, please listen to Nora & Cheree -- the SW and fanfic discussions are great!). Take care everyone -- and be careful in this rotten weather. And best of luck to all in Southern California after this horrible earthquake.



Liz Sharpe
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January 12, 1994

Greetings to all and sundry, and best wishes for ever-increasing happiness, health and wealth in 1994!

Cheree Cargill: Extra special wishes that things in your life improve quickly! Don't feel guilty if you are forced to neglect your fannish publication schedule. After all your hard work these many years, you'd be entitled to some slack even without intervention from the powers of economic recession (or whatever). Just hang in there, and keep in touch now and then! I'll miss your work; but I'd rather know you have food on the table and shelter from the elements. Do what ya gotta. I'll be rooting for you!

Some of these comments are an issue or two behind, due to my recent re-subscription. Please pardon my time lag.

Zinelegging: Cheree, thanks for printing *both* sides of the recent exchange. No amount of rumor and second hand reporting can substitute for letting the contenders speak for themselves. ((*Ed: "Zinelegging"!! What a great term!!*))

Zine editing: IMO, the fundamental rules of editing (and being edited) are simple, but application varies according to the type of publication and the type of material. Original stories are not the same as letterzine contributions; non-fiction analytical pieces are not the same as personal statements; poems are not the same as con reports. Hate mail isn't the same as anything. (Fortunately, recipients are excused from editing this last category at all.)

In an ideal world, the universal basic standard would be that all contributors would be punctual in meeting submissions deadlines (and would provide a sufficiency of SASE's), while all editors would be equally prompt in reviewing and marking up copy. Any editorial changes other than spelling/obvious text dropouts would be quickly returned to contributor, allowing plenty of time for the contributor to approve proposed changes, perform a (prompt) rewrite, or else to courteously withdraw the submission. *Ideally*, this would still leave plenty of time for the approved copy to be contemplated and suitably enhanced by an artist, if so desired.

Too bad the world isn't ideal, eh?

Here's a rule of thumb for editors in this non-ideal world to keep in mind: the shorter the material, the greater the effect of *any* change. In a poem, espe-

cially, even minor deviations can greatly change the author's intent. In a vignette, better make sure any minor adjustments don't accidentally scramble the lead-up to the "punch line." A novel leaves more room for error (both of omission and commission) and resolution for editors and writers alike. Editors of fannish material don't have professional publishing-house quality reputations to uphold. (Apparently, neither do most printing houses these days, but that's a different aspect of modern social malaise...) Therefore, if you're in doubt and time's short, it's probably just as well to let the author take the rap for any uncertainties. (Of course, if it's glory, share...)

There are a few things an editor should always feel free to correct. Spelling, continuity problems (changing the heroine's eyes from blue to brown in mid-stream without explanation -- though you'd do well to check with the author anyway), text absences (say, the alternate pages between 15-25 seem to be missing), fundamental (unintentional) grammar problems ("and he was dumber as a rock") are relatively clear-cut targets. (There *are* writers who for instance, *insist* on using false cognates. Shrug -- and let them take the rap...) Tinkering with "style" (generally, some mannerism(s) pervasive throughout the material) is tempting, but problematic. If you really want to try to change part of an author's style, and you have time, try to discuss it with the contributor, over the phone if possible. If the writer doesn't accept your suggestions, it's time to decide whether to publish the piece as is, or politely send it back.

Never publish stylistic revisions without the author's consent. If you do, word will get around, and nobody who gives a fake pfennig for their work (whether it's any good or not) will send you any submissions ever again. The no-changes-without-consent rule can be bent somewhat, depending on the circumstances and the judgment of the parties involved. Extra special care should be exercised when publishing personal (non-fiction) statements. No editor has the right to *add, substitute, or paraphrase* any language in a personal statement without the author's consent. Attributing your own words to other people is dishonest, and can be legally actionable. When in doubt, if discussion with the author isn't possible, dubious material should be sent back (via SASE), or just plain not printed. If the writer responds with confused and inaccurate complaints about "suppression of freedom of speech," offer them a copy of your mailing list. Encourage them to make full use of their completely unimpeded freedom to go into the business of circulating their pristine opinions

themselves.

However, apart from intentionally changing the spin of other folks' opinions, an editor *does* have the right to set his/her own policies. This is the aspect of editing that *writers* should keep in mind. Most editors are (and all should be) very up-front about their policies and methods, and writers should take these policies into account when submitting contributions. If (for instance) an editor has an ongoing policy reserving the right to make block deletions (sometimes fundamentally necessary for legal and/or financial reasons), writers who object should submit elsewhere, exercise restraint, or resign themselves to the chance of appearing in abbreviated form. My strong personal preference is that editors should use * * * to indicate where deletions occur, if only to show that the omissions are not accidental. But I'm not going to pitch a tizzy for lack of an ellipsis.

This doesn't mean that editors shouldn't have views of their own. (They should!) Or that editors shouldn't express their views. (They'd better!) Brief interjections in a letter or statement (like *Cheree's*, which are clearly and obviously identified) are fine and often entertaining -- as long as it's clear whose words originated where. For eloquence of greater length, there's always the formal editorial appearance.

At one time or another, I have sinned against most of these precepts myself, both as a contributor and as an occasional publisher, which is how I come to have strong feelings about the dialectics of the editorial process. Sorry to run on; it seemed like such a nice little morph in the beginning...

"NIMGA" is great acronym. I employ the short version, "IMGA" ("It's *my* galaxy, [aardvaark]!") for when people try to tell me why *their* version of *my* universe would work so much better...

The late, talented and much-missed Sarah Campbell's original phrase for Antilles fen was "Right Thinking People Who Are For Wedge." If you try to pronounce this as an acronym, people will say "geshundheit" and offer you kleenex. My recollection is that the phrase "Church of Ford" was coined first (largely from exasperation), about the same time most *Jundland Wastes/SE* readers realized the general heated discussion was turning into militant factionalism for some participants. Other phrases, like "Cathedral of Luke" and "Temple of the Bitch Goddess" (for *Leia*) arose later and from a conscious urge to retaliate/ridicule. The "Right Thinking People" monicker was deliberately intended to poke fun at all parties who were getting too extreme.

Of course, it's inarguably true that Wedge is the

one true "other," and anybody who thinks different is irredeemably bound on a one-way voyage into the outer darkness and uncongenial points beyond... See ya at the Oracle of the Other Other, Mickey! (I like that one!)

Nora Mayers: I've worked for big law firms in downtown D.C. for about 10 years now. (A field of employment having all the moral indecency of smuggling, without the illicit glamor of being against the law.) What unsuspecting edifice of the establishment have you currently infiltrated? Maybe we can get together sometime.

The puddle under Jabba's palace: Ok, maybe it isn't water at all. Mechanical by-products, Wookiee by-products... What an inventive lot we are! But if it is "just" water... H'mmm. Tatooine doesn't seem to be *quite* as arid as the planet Arrakis in *Dune*, but perhaps there's a tendency in that direction, (acute water shortage leading to a water-oriented socio-economic system). Perhaps Jabba's crime business got started with an illegal but highly profitable secret subterranean "water mine" (Han Solo smuggles... Perrier? Naaa...) and like other irresponsible criminal types, Jabba flaunts/wastes what he's got, regardless of other folks' needs. A soggy basement/dungeon could be *really* cruelly oppressive to prisoners raised with Tatooine water conservation practices.

In fact, along the lines of Tatooine environmental attitudes... I've always wondered whether Dagobah's outward physical manifestation wasn't completely subjective to Luke's perceptions. (I incline to the theory that, like the traditional "hollow hills," Dagobah isn't physically accessible from the "normal" universe without magical/Forceful intervention.) If our proto-Jedi had been raised in a tropical rainforest, would he have been tested not only by Yoda's bad grammar, obnoxious sense of humor, and gruelling aerobics program (you've got the video -- now all you need is some nice, well-anchored liana vines...), but also by having to learn his lessons amid the distractions of an alien, say, arctic wasteland? (And would Yoda have manifested himself with a different appearance if Luke had been somebody else?) Equatorial-type deserts (Tatooine style) are relatively open, clean and sterile. I find occasional hints in Mark Hamill's acting that Dagobah gives Luke a *bad* case of barely-restrained-slinky-slimy-creeping-crawlies-yuck-get-it-off-me-right-now-there's-no-room-in-here-ackgh. Or maybe Mark just felt that way. It looked like a bodaciously claustrophobic and messy set, never mind the *live* critters...

Tabloid lines: Love struck perverse Corellian urges partner to "laugh it up fuzzball." Actually, A.G.

Steyn's line from last issue should be a contender: "wrong shaft, wrong time, dearie."

Maggie Novakowska: I hope lots of people will take you up on your challenge to define "strong woman." I think my own definition of a strong woman is somebody who is so well occupied with (a) thinking about what she's doing (including some reflection on whether it's the right thing), and (b) getting it done, that she doesn't have time to worry about whether she *seems* like a strong woman (or a virgin, or a Bitch Goddess, or whatever). Too much preoccupation with the consistency of one's labels/appearances can definitely have a weakening effect, be you female or otherwise. Unless (let's be difficult) you're forced to work within the context of a label-happy organization, such as a uniformed military service ... the kind of place which traditionally (so far, in our mundane American culture) is a bastion of "strong men" and not women at all, come to think on it...

Barbara Anderson: More Ewok jokes: How do you like Ewoks? Love 'em! Can't eat a whole one at one sitting, but...

Perhaps someone would care to revive Dead Bothan jokes? They were good while they lasted...

Catherine Churko: Hi ho, hi ho, portfolio to go...! Good luck with your wonderful artworkings.

Far Realms Sex, Far Realms Sux, and JediStarDark FalconKnight... I think I've got copies. Plus an original submission for the final "Sux" volume which never saw print. How 'bout it, Cheree? How much will you pay me *not* to make that stuff available again? Sealed bids only, preferably for large quantities of small portable units of duty-free universally negotiable commodities, bidders' anonymity guaranteed... ((Ed: Hey, Liz, I've thought now and again about smuggling that trash back into print myself! Or, worse, doing yet another volume!))

As for bad stories: I committed a doozie once, sort of kind of on purpose. It was meant as a "Mary Sue" satire: three "clone character" Mary Sues ("original" characters deliberately based on bad characterizations of Leia, Luke and Han) plus an "alter ego" Mary Sue (deliberately based on authorial Corellian wanna-be) set off to rescue the Leia clone's fiancé, who is being held hostage by an embittered renegade Alderaniaan nobleman, who just happened to be the Leia clone's childhood sweetheart. The satire part was OK at the beginning, though a bit labored. Unfortunately, I got so interested in the character, circumstances, and development of the renegade Alderaanian nobleman (not to mention certain Sith-related political side developments) that

the story turned serious on me. Argh. So I ended up with about a quarter of a silly satire and about two-thirds of a fairly original tragic romance, inextricably entwined. Fittingly, at the end, the poor Baron blew himself up (taking lots of baddies with him, resolving the romantic triangle, and incidentally protecting the retreat of the Mary Sues) and the unscathed Mary Sues made good their retreat (except for the authorial alter-ego Mary Sue who hit her head on the deck of her own ship during emergency liftoff and spent most of the action-packed getaway in a most characteristic state of obliviousness) despite hot pursuit and vows of eternal perseverance by an Imperial ship commanded by -- uh -- Mary Sue (the Imperial clone spin-off)... That was a very messed up story by the time I stopped tormenting it!

The Zahn Things: I own copies of his first two SW books. I remember picking up the first book and trying to read it. I remember putting it down. A year or so went by. Then I remember picking it up again, and stubbornly wading all the way through. I can't remember more than about six unrelated details about the entire book, and even less about the plot... Mechanically speaking, all the parts were there (as I think back) but I found it utterly lacking in dramatic energy, or human interest, or whatever it is that makes the whole frog functional *before* it gets dissected. Pat Nussman's observation that none of the "canon" characters undergoes significant growth or change is right on target. In addition, though, I think there is also a failure of basic storytelling style. (Somewhat similar to my complaint regarding ROTJ, though the movie has only a mild case.)

Various successful professional writers have pointed out over the years that there are only a few basic plots. (Some say, as few as five.) These basic elements can be combined in various degrees, numbers and orders -- but all the rest is STYLE (pacing, delivery, rhythm, cadence, timing, etc). From what I can remember, both the plot development and the prose (of the Zahn book which I did read) was monotonous: it varied from "bleah bleah bleah" to "see Spot run" and back again. You know: something happened. Then something happened. Then something else happened. Then they dropped the bomb. And it went off. Something happened. And then something happened. And something else happened... You get the idea... Absent help from ominous background music, dramatic lighting, makeup and special effects, Zahn's book doesn't provide important emotional clues as to when (if ever) the characters are undergoing a crisis. A novelist's tools for marking

dramatic emphasis are more limited than a movie director's; I would expect a professional writer to have dealt with this (familiar!) obstacle more adroitly.

I guess it's just a boring book. Not damnable; not a bad book; maybe a little clumsy. But I became a SW fan because SW is *exciting* material...

Naming stuff: What does Han Solo smuggle, anyway? Possibly, "spice" is just a slang term (based on a real commodity, per "spice mines of Kessel") just as we have many names for illegal recreational chemicals here and now. You dig "weed?" "Spice" could serve as a generic reference for contraband cargo. As for domestic appliances and communications and the like: I prefer to keep specific references to machinery down, for the simple reason that they're apt to sidetrack the unfolding of the plot, much like any other bit of technical exposition. Han doesn't have to grab a "beer" out of the "refrigerator." He can just punch up a drink (or a brew) (both terms connoting alcoholic beverages) from the dispenser. (Though sometimes use of an obvious invented "brand name" can convey a nice sense of authentic, idiomatic acquaintance with the author's world: like Luke's complaint to Ben in ANH about the drop in the resale value of his 'speeder.) Manufactured terms can be colorful, but most should be something immediately obvious ("fresher" instead of "bath", "keeper" over "fridge"). Like any other bit of stage business, such color should enhance the story, not slow it down.

The same goes with "really" alien terms: make them obvious and recognizable; keep the polysyllables down (unless you're making a point about polysyllables). If you want something "alien" to strike the *reader* as exotic, follow the same guidelines you would use for any other dramatic effect: show, don't tell. Have one character use an unfamiliar term casually, and another character *not understand*. Carefully restrict your narrative point of view to the things your character actually observes and understands: On her way to a rendezvous, Mary Sue gets a brief glimpse of Three Ugly Entities grouped around an upholstered pit in one corner of an otherwise mostly humanoid-style bar; there is a ripple of attentive movement among the group as a serving droid approaches bearing a number of opaque, gently fuming bowls. Mary Sue looks down to step over something's prehensile appendage on the floor, careful not to bump the sheaf of stolen data chips making her jacket pocket bulky, and spots her contact (who's late) at last. I don't know if the Ugly Entities are sitting, standing or lounging; whether they're friendly; what they call themselves (as a race or individuals); whether

what's in the bowls is hot or cold, something edible, or the equivalent of cosmetic mudpack -- and neither does my character. But that won't prevent her from getting splattered with fuming mystery goo (and landing a desperate kick on something's hairy whasis) when she falls into the pit during the nice little barfight that's about to ensue... And she may still have to try to get the damn goo (whatever it is -- how does it smell? Feel oily or gluey?) out of her hair and clothes, next time she's got a moment (be it safe on her ship or after the guards have hurled her into a waiting detention cell)...

It's the little things that count.

Whatever they are.

Y'all play nice. Read you next time around!

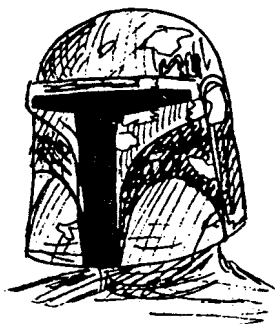
Shortest Letter Sweepstakes

Jacqueline Taero
State of Confusion
U.S.A., Planet Earth

Regarding collapsing empires: Someone once asked me why, in one of my stories, I included ex-Imperials in a post-Rebellion government. My question is, how do you keep them out?

If you hold free elections, you have no choice but to allow all and sundry to participate and then accept the results of the vote. And, if you don't hold free elections, you will be accused of continuing your predecessors' bad habits. Consider the recent Russian elections and the results thereof -- isn't it likely, or even inevitable, that something similar would happen in the SW galaxy?

PS: Cheree, this is my entry in the "Shortest Letter Ever Written to SE Sweepstakes". Did I win? ((Ed: Hmm, not sure without going back over all the back issues. There have been some shorties in there, but you're definitely a contender. And this isn't an invitation for everyone to see if they can top Jacqueline!))



Tim Blaes
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Well, I must have been a good boy this year because, when I finally got my three boxes of SW Galaxy cards and sorted them all out, I ended up with five complete sets, assorted extras and *all six chase cards!!!* SW Galaxy II may be out before the next MediaWest.

We all suffer a great loss with the death of River Phoenix. I first encountered him in the movie *Explorers*. Most of you probably don't remember the film (it wasn't mentioned in the article you reprinted) but it was one of those special movies that seemed to be made just for me and my dreams. River's character was an important part of why the film meant so much to me. Dying on the pavement from a drug overdose is not the end he deserved.

Nora Mayers: Granted, "concept erosion" has struck many a TV show. But I still think we're on shaky ground when we say we know the characters better than the creators. We are on much firmer ground when we tell the creators they're not giving us what we want. The chapter on B&B in *Textual Poachers* underscores this point.

I see no problem with an Ian Malcolm story. Perhaps Scully and Mulder might need to consult a chaostician for one of their X-files.

Mary Jo Fox: I suppose "Jedi" collectors would be prone to art and literature rather than "action figures" and plastic light sabers. "Corellian" collectors probably go for things like commemorative plates and limited-edition whatever's; anything that's likely to increase in value.

Charyl Perry: Seems not too long ago that I bounced out the idea of doing a zine on disk, and it was met with disinterest and a little skepticism. Having not just the idea but the skill to make it reality, *Technological Terror* may break new ground.

A. G. Steyn: What you describe is more commonly known as "Rick Hunter Syndrome"; and it most commonly afflicts the hair of Japanese animation characters. From the Videolog review of the *Star Wars Trilogy: The Definitive Collection* in *Starlog* #198: "If you were hoping that this 'definitive edition' would include the legendary pre-release outtakes as part of the supplement, forget it. There's still not chance of seeing the early *Star Wars* scenes with Luke and his friends in Anchorhead or Jabba the Hutt at Mos Eisley, or any other outtakes from *Empire* or *Jedi*."

Maggie Nowakowska: George was influenced by a

lot of Japanese anime and movies, and in turn, the Japanese have been strongly influenced by SW. There is a *lot* of interesting Japanese anime and more and more of it's being dubbed or subtitled. Any SW fan would do well to investigate this stuff.

Re the "Female point of view" of Luke's alleged sterility; yeah, I think you've just about hit it right on the head. Cultural influences aside, men and women have different views of reproduction hardwired into their DNA. I could imagine a situation out of the song by Heart, "All I Want to Do is Make Love to You"; Luke is going hot 'n heavy with some woman, pausing just long enough to bring up the subject of contraception. She says she has that covered. Luke senses in some level of the Force that she's lying, but the question of what her nipples taste like overrides that intuition. Years later he finds out about the little Skywalker and is disturbed to find his offspring heading into the Dark. Of course, this scenario might be moot, if Jedi are able to practice "immaculate contraception."

Yvette Ghilan: Because zine editors don't profit from their zines, and because they sink so much money into them, zine piracy damages the editor's ability to break even and potentially prevents him/her from producing the next issue. How would you feel if you saw a very bad copy of your zine being sold for twice or three times the original price by a dealer with no altruistic intentions, while you still haven't sold the bulk of your own print run and the zine only came out three months ago! It happens. I've seen it.

It must have been intense, seeing all three movies cold in the space of two weeks! Try to imagine most of us, left with only the first movie to analyze and ponder upon for three years, only to then be left with the TESB's cliffhanger for *another* three years.

Michelle Malkin: I had assumed that the x-ray effect on Vader was the result of the Emperor's Force-blasts.

Granted, an excess of slash isn't much of a problem for me; plenty of ST, SW and Science Fiction/Fantasy zines to suit my taste. But next door over in the Buddy Cop/Detective fandom it *has* gotten out of hand. I've heard complaints from some of the fans of these shows that they would like to write non-slash stories but the only zines they could find for their shows were exclusively slash. And don't go tellin' me they could just go and do their own zine. Not every one has the skill, the money, connections and the more-guts-than-brains mentality required to be an editor.

Current anthropological studies indicate that while

men were out hunting and gathering, women were inventing things like pottery, cooking with fire, weaving and agriculture; in effect, inventing most of the skills needed for civilization. So it could be said that women really did take that first bite of fruit from the tree of knowledge.

Barbara Anderson: I think most of us here realize that 90% or more of sex is in the mind, and inserting Tab A into Slot B is only the surface. TV commercials try to use sex all the time, but the only one that worked to my way of thinking was the one for Chanel #5 perfume -- and all the sex in that ad was on a symbolic level which I don't completely understand. I bring this up to point out that it's possible to scorch someone's socks off without an X rating. It's a lot harder, but it's possible.

Those battering rams and log traps may *not* have been built overnight. The Ewoks may have been expecting a confrontation for as long as the Empire had their stupid base in the forest. It's the hang gliders that don't make sense to me.

Tina Bentrup: R2-D2, the Supreme Intellect? Only if George Lucas has been hiding inside the little droid. Somebody remember where this "Supreme Intellect" business started? I'm not sure there is one, or what it means if there is.

Brian Harris: Yeah, Princess Irulan was a dish, all right. I think it was over a year ago that I saw a book listed in Previews titled *Great Babes of the Galaxy*; a pictorial history of women in SF&F movies and television -- politically incorrect and proud of it. It had Leia on the cover. I asked the comics shop to order me a copy, but if it was ever published I didn't get one.

Pat Nussman: What do you mean, Leia acts skittish around men? Her relationship with Luke seems close and warm. She saw right through Lando and handled his flirtations quite smoothly. She didn't seem skittish around Dodonna or Rieekan. Han is the only one who's been able to get under her skin. Have I missed anyone?

Han Solo, a paper smuggler? That has possibilities. The paper might even be more dangerous if it had already been printed on. Perhaps at one time he smuggled "bibles" ... or fanzines?

Ming Wathne: I've wondered why Brian Daley's Corporate Sector Authority was never metabolized into fanfiction. They were a different kind of threat than the Imperials. Anyway, I've always felt that if you want to understand the mind of an enemy, find out their virtues. ((Ed: *Martie Benedict often used the CSA in her Han fiction.*))

What if Jabba lied to Han about his cargo?

Debbie Kittle: If Vader didn't learn that he had a son from surveillance tapes of Leia's cell, where and when *did* he learn?

Louise Turner: Glad to hear that you had a wonderful summer. Argyll and Glencoe sound quite interesting. What I wish I could do is camp out in the middle of Stonehenge for a night, although I know they'd never permit it.

After entering just about any fandom I tend to focus on the supporting cast. They seem so much more interesting because we don't know that much about them. I mean, how much more can be done with Spock and Kirk? But Uhura, Sulu and the rest of the supporting cast have enormous untapped potential. So there was perhaps a little irony in my comments about Wedge. I once half-seriously suggested that someone do an all-Wedge zine (hey -- I'd buy it!) but the only response I got was a suggestion to switch to decaf.

Wasn't the scene where Hobbie did a kamikaze into an AT-AT cut from the American print? He supposedly took out Veers but the General showed up again in ROTJ.

Ya know, I looked for the female rebel pilot but I never saw her. I don't remember a pregnant woman either. My powers of observation must be dimming with age.

I didn't see an ad for *Tydirium* listed in the back. How much is it?

Gerald Crotty: By now you probably know that *The Art of Star Wars Galaxy* book for the most part simply printed the original art commissioned for the card set. It's a shame because the "lost art" was the most interesting. I think the book could have had a better layout as well.

Molten lava is slow and people rarely die from it. But picture this; Anakin and Obi-Wan dueling on a precipice, then Anakin falls or is pushed off into a stream of lava below. That could work.

Catriona Campbell: One of my favorite ST pro novels is Janet Kagan's *Uhura's Song*. When I first started reading it I thought one of the characters was a rampant Mary Sue; she could outfence Sulu, had a private skiff that had Scotty drooling, could speak unpronounceable alien names perfectly, Spock was fascinated by her and Kirk was almost always off-balance around her. I didn't mind this because the rest of the novel was so wonderful. But halfway through I thought "this isn't a Mary Sue -- this is *the* Mary Sue." Later I wrote Kagan and asked her if the character was the inside joke I thought it was. She

said she didn't know what the inside joke was supposed to be, but that the character was based on her mother.

So David Lynch almost directed ROTJ. I hope he gets another crack at it. "The Ewoks are not what they seem" ...

Jacqueline Taero: You're not the only one who wishes Luke and Leia weren't twins. It really does complicate things, and we won't find out until the first Trilogy if that complication is worth it.

Cheree: If Yoda were human his condition might not be the result of a bad Force spell. "When nine hundred years you reach, look as good you will not."

A few years ago an extremely obese woman gave birth to the first of a set of twins while sitting on the toilet. She didn't know she was pregnant when it happened. Still, Zahn should have done a little research on pregnancy. I still haven't read any of Zahn's books. I suppose I should -- he'll be at a convention near me in March.

Veronica Wilson: I once toyed with this idea; sometime after *A New Hope*, Mon Mothma stumbles onto an auction at a rebel base, attended almost completely by women. Well, if it's one thing Mon enjoys it's a good auction, so she lets herself get caught up in bidding fever. It isn't until she wins that Mon learns she was bidding on first crack at Luke Skywalker, virgin hero of the Rebellion. Luke made the mistake of telling his fellow pilots this little fact about himself and it all culminated in this auction. But frankly, there are too many holes in the scenario and I don't think I could pull it off.

Metaphors be with you...

Strong Women

Jennifer Moore
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January 14, 1994

Que pasa? How's everyone? Hope your winter is going well. (Yes, Debbie, you can have this weather!) Just 4-1/2 months to MWC! Until then, let me join in the SE fray...

Mary Jo and Yvette: Liked your comments on strong women in SW, ST and DS9. I agree that the concept of Leia opened up a lot of doors for strong

female roles. But let's take this topic a little further. Am I crazy, or am I the only one to see the similarities between SW and DS9? The same elements that attracted me to SW are in DS9; such as the strong characterizations; seeing both sides of intergalactic lifestyles, and volatile planetary/galaxy-wide politics. I have to laugh -- in both places, I see equipment jury-rigged and breaking down; and characters bickering yet adapting and surviving in tough circumstances. Meanwhile, there's war and the threat of war hanging over everything. Most of all, both SW and DS9 are so well written and believable. Agree, ladies?

Nora: I agree with you about pro writers having trouble with writing Han's character. Even though I loved Kathy Tyers' *Treaty* book, I still felt Han got short-changed somewhat. He's too much in the background.

Maggie: I enjoyed your chat about MM and politics (and Cheree's answer, too). How can we use Terran examples to define Palpie's Empire? Besides using European politics, Asian politics is another great mother lode of examples; especially when you want to combine different cultures under one leadership. For example, how do the Chinese justify capitalism under a communistic regime? Or even more basic, how does Beijing maintain such a vast control over such a large and different population? When Deng Xipeng dies, oh, boy, the changes that will take place! Another fascinating place is the rest of Asia -- how will those diverse cultures be able to trade with and deal with each other economically? The possibilities are endless just like SW. What do you think? Comments?

Barbara, Yvette, Mary Jo, and Carolyn: I like your opinions on ROTJ. Now I'll throw in my credit's worth. Overall, ROTJ wasn't a bad film, despite the Ewoks. It moved quick enough so any viewer would stay interested. I mean, who can deny that the speeder bike chase, the sabre duel, and the space battles were great scenes? The characterizations were okay. I think Han was there as the comic relief. I thought most lines he said were funny! And the branch scene was a riot! Even the Ewoks were funny at times. So, overall, ROTJ wasn't as bad as everyone says, but it's not as strong as SW and TESB either.

Lin, Cheryl, Mary Jo, Nora, Debbie, and Liz: It was great getting together with you folks! DC-VA-MD SW fandom rules! Let's hope we can recruit more members!

Catriona: It's nice meeting you! I have a word of advice -- if you ever make it to the USA, don't touch the Ho Ho's! They are the nastiest concoctions for desserts ever devised! (Sorry, Mary Jo.) They're

chocolate, I think. I rate them right up there with Bantha chips marking the trail.

I agree about the Ewoks! They were too cute and didn't belong in the film. (But they had some humor, at least.) ((Ed: *Re the Ewoks, does anyone remember the two TV Ewoks specials that Lucasfilm did? The live action ones, not the cartoons. How does everyone think that integrated into the SW universe and when were they supposed to be set? Pre-ROTJ or post-ROTJ? They seemed to be aimed at kids and, indeed, my daughter loves them. Comments?*))

Well, this letter is too huge so I'll sign off. Take care, everyone. Hope to see you at MWC!

Outside World Perspectives

Maggie Nowakowska
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January 23, 1994

Z.P.: Good article on writing ideas! I'd like to add another category, one sort of related to Plot: Outside World Implications. There's a war going on, major cultural/social shifts, all sorts of Outside World Events that our heroes have no control over. How do they affect the lives and life choices of our characters? What happens to Leia's position/ambitions if Mon Mothma is assassinated; and by whom, Ours or Theirs? New perspectives on characters can be found in the reactions of people not emotionally involved with the heroes, who have duties/goals that interfere, conflict or simply are different than Han's or Luke's.

Oh gohd, reading panel transcripts certainly humbles a person. Just call me the non-sequiter queen. And that picture of me! Gad, what was I pontificating on just then?

Laura Bolling: I would love to see your friend's teaching notes on the comparative religions section covering SW!

Marti Schuller: I suspect that the endless it's good/it's bad debates would fade a little if people watched their language and didn't make sweeping statements like "everyone knows that..." and "I don't know anyone who likes (take your pick) Ewoks/ROTJ/Vader/Han/Luke/Lando/etc". There's bound to be a few people who disagree, who write in about their disagreement and we're off once again on an unresolvable tit-for-tat argument.

As for the fluid in Chewie's cell, I tend to agree with those who protest that bladders eventually win out over decorum and lack of tidy toilet facilities.

Related to the issue: Cheree's got a good point about Han recognizing Chewie by his odor. Living beings smell, no matter the efforts of the deodorant industry to eliminate them; even my very proper, elegant and elderly aunt has a distinctive signature scent that labels her possessions as unmistakably hers. It's entirely possible that Han, even with his limited human nasal apparatus, could detect Chewie immediately upon coming within a few feet of him. *Especially* if the sanitation was minimal. These two guys do share a ship's close quarters after all.

Yvette Ghilan: Actually, people did dump on Han for charging the stormtroopers in ANH ... and then a number of ex-military fans weighed in with their observations that what Han did, under those circumstances, was quite logical from a military/aggressive point of view. Unexpected behavior on the part of the pursued can be disorienting to the aggressor and can indeed gain time/scatter forces/alter the odds.

Tina Bentrup: I would love to sit in on a participative, Rocky Horror-type showing of SW!

Pat Nussman: Here's a thought: what if there was no Republican Star Fleet? What if Palpatine presided over the first gathering of a galactic fleet during the Clone Wars and then just "kept it" for his own use? It's always bothered me that the Empire was able to so completely dominate star fleet in such a short time. Maybe the reason the Jedi were peacekeepers was that they were the only pan-galactic group available and able to transcend the parochial interests of local planetary/system fleets. Maybe the reason the Alliance fleet is such a rag-tag group, that it has such a strange chain of command, is that it has no universal fleet structure to fall back on. Instead, it is a gathering of those planetary/system fleets (or what's left of them), which must work together without the Jedi structure that once upon a time provided a neutral communication/negotiation pressure valve. Maybe the Republic was a group of voting trade "states". If those states were slowly evolving into a galactic culture, it's possible that someone like Palpatine took advantage of a Bad Situation like the Clone Wars to consolidate that evolution under his influence.

Ming Wathne: Good point about Yoda and Owen treating Luke in similar ways with dissimilar judgments made upon them. Maybe it's just too easy to identify with Luke as a kid "like me," arguing with the folks. Personifying a character/situation can so

easily cloud judgment. I remember the MWC after ROTJ came out, with lots of folk dumping on OWK, and one person (no, not me) standing up to say that they sounded like kids who have just discovered, to their horror and disillusionment and anger, that Dad isn't perfect.

Louise Turner: Interesting comments on your disappointment over the West End Games interpretation of SW. I can empathize. There is a lot of professional SW material out there that I simply am not interested in. And my disinterest startled me at first, even annoyed me. *This isn't my SW!* I would think. *Why are they wasting money on this?* Ah, but, so many people are thrilled with these developments. I can't condemn them or their interests, and -- in a way -- I guess I have to give Lucas credit for finally letting people run with the ideas. No, this isn't my SW, or my perception of "canon" SW, but Force-knows that even in SW fanzine fandom we disagree violently at times over what SW truly "is." All the new stuff out this past year has really forced me to think through the situation and decide that I don't really have to be compulsive about SW and I don't have to collect everything and therefor I don't have to like/agree with everything out there. It's hard for an "eo-fan" like me to let go of anything labeled SW, but I think I'm getting there!

Catriona Campbell: I like the idea that Owen was anxious because Luke's paperwork was faked or even nonexistent!

Naw, not Celtic bashing (I live with a woman of fanatic Welsh descent), just a little protest for equal time!

That's all for now -- here's hoping everyone enjoys a warm and bright spring!

Finding Time to Write

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January 26, 1994

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and that the new year brings peace and joy for all.

Mary Jo: Thanks much for your comments about "Where Is Thy Sting?", "The Interrogation" and "Unlikely Allies." It was very sweet of you to say that.

As for writing more Vader stories, I'm doing my best, but of course my SW muse only knocks loudest at my mental doors when I'm trying to write for impending academic deadlines!

Louise: Re the point mentioned above, and what you said about finding it difficult to concentrate on school projects at times -- I also have learned to my chagrin that history haunts me when I'm doing SW stuff. Instead of thinking I just have a deliberately perverse personality, I prefer to assume that my SW and history obsessions are linked in some real and probably subconscious ways, just as I am sure your archaeology and fiction are tied in some respects. For instance, in my 20th century American class right now, we are discussing U.S. ventures into cultural and economic imperialism, and whether this automatically means that the republic our founders wished for has been betrayed and subverted. Depressing stuff to ponder for long, but very thought-provoking, too. I find that my class notes contain story ideas as well as germane historical info; I sort of jot them down at random, and the results would probably confuse anyone else who tried to decipher them! Your fighter pilot/hangar crew culture ideas sound fascinating. I would love to see more stories about popular culture and the working class in SW fiction. Is there art, music, fiction, etc. that has resonance not only across planets but across major portions of the galaxy as well? Do regular soldiers share stories, songs and jokes that create a sort of esprit de corps that might give them more in common with each other than with their leaders? Is it conceivable that, say, Alliance and Imp fighter pilots might, in a neutral setting, prefer one another's company to that of their own superiors? Class issues, in fact, are usually neglected in SW fiction. Are there ethnic and religious conflicts within socioeconomic classes? These are issues I would like to explore when all my already-percolating ideas are set on paper.

Charyl: I still plan on sending you something for TT. Did you pursue the playing cards idea? As soon as I've got something suitable completed, I'll let you know!

Tammy: Your poor mom at MWC last year! Hey, if you're unchaperoned, does this mean that you can get into trouble with me if we figure out a way to do it? (Just kidding!) School is going well -- I'm on my last semester of classes now and then next year I begin teaching (my own apprentices!) and preparing for comprehensive exams -- eek!

Maggie: I agree with you that I am actually less bothered by SW fic women in "traditional" roles than

I am with how women in those roles are portrayed. We need stories about working women wishing they had more time to have a family or time to spend with the family they already have, for example. But if we do that, we should also have tales about men who feel the same way and about women who have fulfilling careers or who enjoy being homemakers. We should also remember that there are careers besides government service and Force-training! I like what you said about using one's Darkside tendencies in a positive fashion rather than ignoring them at one's own peril. And what you said about committees and consensus rings true to me -- I've had history seminars in which some students feel threatened whenever the class cannot reach a consensus about a particular topic or book we've discussed. This actually makes me feel more threatened than dissension sometimes does, for a few strong personalities in our class have actually ignored alternative opinions and interpretations and then stated out loud that we have reached an agreement. This not only shuts down the marketplace of ideas, but also stifles people who don't want to stress their disagreement and thus seem difficult or "alien" to the rest of the group. It's frightening to see that happen in an environment in which all opinions are supposed to be tolerated. It makes *me* want to use Darkside traits to protect those who are silenced by supposedly good (and false) consensus. So I sometimes play devil's advocate. One more comment: you asked whether writers should put themselves into stories and risk artistic myopia. I believe that relatively few characters are direct representations of the author, or deliberate alter egos. Rather, I think most writers have some elements of themselves (even negative traits) in every character they portray -- how else could we write at all?

Yvette: I too know how it is to find particular zine stories disturbing or even offensive. However, one being's ambrosia is another's poison, and I would not want arbitrary decisions about which stories are acceptable and which ones should be ghettoized to outside the "mainstream" (whatever the mainstream is defined to be). Each editor has to make difficult decisions about what to accept or reject as it is, and if we disagree with those policies, we should move on to another story or no longer patronize those zines, just as if there is something offensive on TV or radio, we should turn it off or select another channel. If a story bothers you, quit reading it. You could even write it as you would like to see it done.

Also, where do authors, readers and editors draw the line between "acceptable" and "dangerous"? We

are all subjective creatures, and therefore no opinion is worth more than any other. I personally believe we need more, not less, fiction in which beings of all genders can openly express love and tenderness toward each other regardless of gender, for I would like to think that some beings in the SW galaxy are wiser and more tolerant than us frail and too-often short-sighted humans. I also think excessive violence is problematic, depending on the message of the story -- is rape, torture or murder being romanticized or actually deplored? But these are *my* concerns, my views. The point is that the moment we start trying to make clear distinctions and definitions, everything falls apart and we differ about what is and what is not acceptable. Few of us would delight in reading detailed descriptions of disembowelment, for example, yet it can be easy for us to forget the fact that people die horribly in the SW films. After all, the two Death Star explosions and Alderaan's destruction are examples of mass murder -- but we don't have to ponder that since we don't see the actual suffering and pain. It's just too complex an issue for anyone to try to apply tight classificatory standards. That is why editors should be able to print what they choose, and the rest of us should deal with it accordingly. If we don't agree with their policies, we should do our own stricter or more permissive publications or simply learn that we should tolerate others' opinions even if we don't necessarily agree with them.

The only thing that makes me "risk losing my lunch" is the prospect of a SW fandom that stifles creativity, diversity and freedom of thought and speech. As I stated in Maggie's comments above, such a coercive consensus can only be detrimental. Therefore, I welcome stories that might make me grimace, for I believe in having my opinions, even my morals, challenged from time to time. Accordingly, I also welcome any criticisms you would like to point out about the opinions I have just expressed or any flaw you see in my reasoning. A U.S. Chief Justice once said that he couldn't define obscenity but "knew it when he saw it." Another one stated that he might deplore what someone said, but would defend to the death his or her right to say it. Those two statements seem to express the true issues involved in this admittedly thorny topic.

Z. P.: Thanks for the story plug! I'll also refer to your article last issue whenever I get writer's block from now on. How have you been surviving the rotten East Coast weather -- does DC even know what snow scrapers are? That blizzard must have been a nightmare!

Tina: Thanks for the support! No, I've not read that Yasner story. What happens? As for that Kenobi line that Owen thought Anakin should have stayed on Tatooine and not gotten involved -- are we to take that as "truth" or just as a rhetorical move designed to cover for Owen's obvious disapproval of Luke's father and to perpetuate a "safe" myth of Anakin Skywalker, a myth that would inspire Luke to the "proper" goals and opinions?

Brian: Hi! Keep those letters coming! As for writing about characters' sex lives in SE or in fiction, of course no one has to do that. But if we want to, we should be able to, right? Are you saying there's something wrong with prurient interest? (smile)

Pat: I understand how Leia's reaction to Han in TESB might be one of inexperience. However, one can have had sex in the past and still be taken aback or flustered by someone else's romantic move. I think we all feel a little awkward when kissing a particular individual for the very first time -- it's always a new experience when it's a new person. I think this would be true in Leia's situation since she'd obviously assumed until that point that a relationship with Han was just not possible, or at least not something she should actively pursue. She could be afraid of the circumstances, afraid of his reputation, afraid of feeling too much when she's lost so much already, afraid of getting into a romance when in the middle of a war, afraid of becoming too close to someone who runs against all her expectations of who a "proper" princess' and diplomat's mate should be. She might be fearing her own emotions rather than reacting out of inexperience. Perhaps she fears the vulnerability involved in expressing her love. It can be easier to be romantic with someone who has little emotional power over us, especially if we think the relationship will have to end because of life's demands or because of basic personality conflicts. Leia values her ability to control situations, and if she realizes she has strong feelings for Han, his romantic move might terrify her whether or not she is still a virgin.

Catriona: Thanks for the compliment on "Sting". I value your comments on Obi-Wan, for I sometimes fear that I forget how frightened he must have been for so long, and how wounded he was by the past. (All our favorite characters, you realize, are in serious need of therapy, preferably group counseling, although that might have had dire consequences indeed, since that would involve all of them being in the same room at the same time -- smile). Seriously, though, I don't want to fall into the trap of understanding some characters' shortcomings and then condemning others'.

As for Ho Ho's, I personally rank them high on my favorite corporate-packaged junk food list -- just above Twinkies and right below Hostess cupcakes. It's hard to find that fine balance between decadent sugar and delicious preservative plastic! Sometime I'll send you some; Force knows there's no danger of them rotting in the mail! No, sir, no one will need to embalm me when I die... What's this "Daddy turning back toward the closed door" thing you mentioned to Fiorenzo? Sounds like it's something I should obsess over...

Fiorenzo: See above. What's Catriona talking about? These tiny moments are great to think about, to base whole philosophies upon... As for philosophies about enigmatic characters, thank you for explaining your views on Vader and Palpie's twisted relationship a bit more. It sounds fascinating, and I do wish you'd write those stories down, because I can't get into your mind, you see. (Probably a good thing for both of us!)

Marti: Last but not least. Feel consoled that the weather here is horrible, too. At least I don't need to be home; I can get ice storms and blizzards right here! Obviously, since I'm talking about the weather, we've spoken recently on the phone. I hope we can get into some juicy debates on these pages sometime soon! (Or do we know each other too well for that now?)

Bye!

Whacking Womp Rats

Cheryl Pryor
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January 29, 1994

Hi, all!

I cannot believe all the new merchandise out there or on the way! I picked up the Micro Machines right after Christmas and they are adorable. Sure hope they come up with play sets to go with them.

Some thoughtful relative got me the Super Nintendo games for SW and TESB -- wow! The graphics are amazing. I'm not much of a video game fanatic, but these are fun. So far, I've whacked about a million womp rats, nailed dozens of pesky Jawas but I haven't rescued R2 yet, or piloted down the Death Star trench -- wish me luck.

I'm still searching for the audio collection.

Richmond apparently is a one audio collection town. Clerk at Peaches, "Yeah, we got one of those in but we sold it." I did manage to get both radio show collections and they are lovely. Thanks to Lin Ward, I'd had the tapes to sustain me during the "dark times". The CD's have movie scenes etched on each one and fun little promos.

I'm really excited by the line of stand ups coming out. My friends and I have already made plans for a private photo session when our life-size friends arrive! So far, they've scheduled Luke, Han, Leia, Darthie, both droids and a stormtrooper. The photographic possibilities (including in costume and -- ahem -- out) are endless.

I loved Z. P.'s article on writing tips. So, what's Z. P.'s favorite expression? "That's another story."

Awfully sorry to hear about Randy's layoff. I guess they don't call it that anymore, though, do they? They call it "de-selection" or use some other politically correct euphemism. ((Ed: We call it "bullshit.") Be assured our best thoughts are with you. Glad to hear SE will still be running -- always remember that some of us get the shakes without our SW fix.

Marti Schuller: Yvette thinks L&L were born on Tatooine. You have them on Alderaan. I always assumed they were born on Dagobah. I think it was Luke's line about everything looking familiar. And I get a kick out of picturing Yoda as the midwife! "Push you must!"

Nora Mayers: Glad you could make it to the Pre-MWC Trilogy party. Let's make it an annual event! I love your idea of a Raiders trilogy -- let's do it real soon (drool slurp).

Can't wait to read the promised novel. It'll be fun to read more about Wedge -- definitely an underlooked cutie.

Mary Jo Fox: Ditto on the trilogy party. So, you write during class? You *bad* girl. I can think of a few stories I wish I'd written, though.

I thought Winter was the spy too in the Zahn books. Hoped fervently she was so that she'd die in some particularly gruesome way that would wipe the smug ... oh, sorry. Winter wasn't my favorite ... uh ... character seems like too strong a word.

Oooh... Love your idea about Death (from the Sandman comics for the uninitiated) and Darthie. They both like killing puny humans, both have a marked preference for black apparel, both have pale white skin. Hmm, wonder what the kids would look like?

Charyl Perry: CherylCon was great this year, wasn't it?

If you love Vader's voice (as, of course, do I), you should definitely check out the new Lucasfilm magazine. In addition to oodles of new goodies from the Super Live show (previously only available in Japan), they have a toy that's a Vader voice box! It's shaped like the lower half of the mask with an electronic voicebox that converts boring everyday speech into evil mechanical hisses! Needless to say, this is every Vader fan's second fondest wish. It has dozens of uses -- answering the phone when those pesky sales calls come through, cursing at drivers who cut you off on the interstate...

Carolyn Cooper: Glad to hear *From a Certain Point of View* will be gearing up again. Zines! I need more zines!

Tammy Olsen: Droid smut is best, put your R2 unit to the test. Why do you think they loaded it with all those attachments? (No, you didn't accidentally skip to an A. G. Steyn letter!) Or read Mary Jo Fox's first issue of *Blue Harvest*. There's an article about the first SW trading cards, one series of which includes C3PO in his "hard drive" position. Droid smut is all around us -- if you know where to find it...

Michelle Malkin: My ego was demolished by the line in your LoC about doing without so many photos of dolls we've all seen before. Believe me, you haven't seen these dolls! Luke in a rebel flight suit -- they didn't sell that at Toys R Us. An Emperor doll? Imperial guards? Don't remember those from Lucasfilm! Z. P. and Debbie Kittle and others worked really hard to put an awesome display together and we all brought our dollies along. We'll knock your socks off this year, I promise!

Barbara Anderson: Yes, I did get to see Harrison's appearance on *The Tonight Show*. Oh, boy, carbonite my hormones some more, will ya? Even though I'm a die-hard Darthie fan, I want to see some Han art using that *Vanity Fair* photo -- maybe with the shirt a tad shorter, eh?

Tina Bentrup: My husband has long since become accustomed to the Vader shrine in our bedroom. He didn't even heave a sigh when I hung the two SW ties from our dresser mirror. Now, if I can just get him to wear the helmet... How are you coming along with breaking training Dan?

Jennifer Moore: Really liked your idea that both sides would want to exploit Luke's parentage. It certainly is the ultimate PR hot potato. I think Luke and Leia would also admit their relationship -- having a particular abhorrence for family secrets.

Uh, Ming, what Swedish *Dark Lord* series? There's a x-rated Vader fiction that I haven't read?

My SASE is in the mail. Honey, where's that helmet?

Debbie Kittle: Yes, I do bribe Cheree to put great titles over my LoCs. This one will be "Sith Secrets Laid Bare" and I'll be carrying her luggage up to her room at MediaWest for it.

Jacqueline Taero: Aha! More droid sex! I neer thought of Bail and a droid before... Male or female? Might as well break as many taboos as possible.

As for Luke and Mon Mothma -- that story has to be a comedy, with time out, of course, for the sensuous older woman (who suddenly bears a striking resemblance to myself) who initiates him into the mysteries of sex. Okay, now you write it.

Veronica Wilson: *sigh* I just love reading your LoCs when you're discussing Vader. Let me stop writing and re-read a couple of paragraphs again. *sigh*

Tim Blaes: Love your idea of a cantina with the dolls. Maybe next year, this year's already sewn up.

I'll refrain from adding a droid sex comment on your "Darth Vader wears R2D2 underoos."

Oh, Tim, I can't believe you haven't heard of Space "Gary Owens" Ghost, one of those dreadful 60's Hanna-Barbera cartoons. Check out TNT's Adventure Quest cartoon hour.

Liz Sharpe: Oh, goody, another "Eastern Enclaver" to ~~subvert~~ meet. So, I hear you can stop subway trains with your bare hands...

Well, that's enough for now. Hope to see everyone at MWC. From the Dark Side...

Make Luke Human--Not Superhuman

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January 27, 1994

Yes, I know I'm late -- please no lectures. Time just seems to fly in when there is a deadline to meet. I'm just hoping Cheree gets this in time!

Well, a very happy and healthy year to you all! I hope everyone had just the right amount of fun and frolics to make the festive season a memorable one! All my fun happened just days prior to Christmas as Louise and I embarked on yet another mission to London -- another exciting, bank balance breaking, too much rich food and getting soaking wet (not to mention bone cold, waiting in line at Wembley Arena

on December 20th to see Depeche Mode for the second time in less than six months) trip to the bustling capital. We met some of the London fans again and spent the day with them, spent too much money buying the SW and TESB radio series. We found *Truce at Bakura*, we hummed and hawed over buying it. In the end, no one did! (I decided to wait and hear other opinions before spending my hard earned cash -- I've learned my lesson from Zahn's efforts.)

I won't mention the concert as Cheree'll probably edit it! Suffice it to say that I came home thoroughly inspired, as high as a kite and suffering from a very sore throat!

To top off our experiences, and just to add a little spice and danger to our trip, the IRA decided to play silly buggers by causing a major security scare! You should just try to get around London, while "humph-ing" about several heavy bags, when most of the train stations and Underground stations are closed due to bomb warnings. However, looking on the bright side, it only added fuel to the imagination!

Okay, let's get on. I don't want this letter to turn into a marathon!

MediaWest: Ah, so that's why my ears were burning back in May -- you were talking about us behind our backs! (And, Marti, I lost my mind a long time ago! Thanks for plugging the zine, though.) Hey, Louise, so you're "the other"; Cheree says so on pg. 6!

Marti: I applaud your views re: Leia's "I..." during the Endor scenes. And, yes, I suppose the lighting could have been better -- but it didn't take anything from the scene for me.

Nora Mayers: Speaking of Harrison Ford and interviews... Have you heard the 1976 radio interview given by Mark and Harrison before the release of SW? It's hilarious! Mark nitters away at break neck speed, while Harrison mumbles out one word answers and sounds like he wishes to be elsewhere. Saying that, though, he gave a great interview on a British chat show when *Mosquito Coast* was released.

Mary Jo Fox: How was the DM concert on September 12th? I don't think Chewie was in Jabba's cell for very long -- maybe overnight -- but you have to admit he is rather a big beastie, and big beasties do ... um ... make larger puddles than your average human. And you're right. Why *are* we talking about this?

And there are *plenty* of "Jedi" collectors! Me, for a start, and I would hardly call myself pious -- but the poverty bit is spot on, but only because I spend all my hard earned cash on my passion ... "Oooooer, Missus" (to quote a recently deceased British comic).

Charyl Perry: Welcome to the wonderful world of contributing to SE! Like you, I had received SE for a while before plucking up my courage to add my voice (with a little friendly encouragement from Marti), I'm now wondering why I didn't write sooner. And, believe me, I'm *trying* to write more Luke gets the girl stories...

Maggie Nowakowska: I like your ideas about Luke not using the force all the time to get out of troubling circumstances. Not only could this be deemed as a misuse of the Force, but it would also be pretty boring to write/read -- and hardly lend credence to anyone's imagination, e.g. Luke is under fallen log -- he uses the Force. Luke requires information from someone -- he uses the Force. Luke needs some answers -- he uses the Force to look into the future, etc., etc. Pretty boring, if story and plot lines took the easy way out. It hardly calls for high drama! Let's have Luke being human, and not superhuman. (Although I'm not saying he shouldn't be seen as a powerful human.) I just find that if he is constantly using the Force to extract himself from situations, the story becomes tedious.

Yvette Ghilan: Well said re: ROTJ!

Z. P. Florian: Hi! Glad you see our side of the argument re: Owen! (smile) Re: your answer to Debbie Kittle -- of course Yoda taught Luke those skills as well! Didn't you hear "Size matters not...?"

Barbara Anderson: Yes, I noticed the stormtrooper bashing his head years ago. Also look out for other mistakes: C3PO in the oil bath looking in the wrong direction as Luke speaks. As soon as he heard Luke, his head turns very quickly towards the sound of his voice. As the blast doors close on Luke, *et al* escaping, Vader's sword is white. To name but a couple -- admittedly, they are not as funny.

Tina Bentrup: Adored the cartoon! "Han the Idiot" -- marvelous! Know what you mean about seeing SW on the big screen being heavenly. Louise and I had that pleasure during the summer of '93! It arrived in Glasgow *twice* within two weeks -- and sold out! If only we could have a triple bill...

We had the Mata Hari episode of *Young Indy* on satellite recently -- unfortunately, I forgot it was on, and only remembered as it ended. I'm hoping George will ask Ian McDiarmid to return as Palpie in the prequels -- we must keep some Scots in employment, mustn't we? 'Sides that, he was just so wonderfully loathesome.

I've heard the radio series (believe it or not, it was broadcast here in '81, although we didn't get the TESB series so a kind U.S. fan taped it for me. I've got the boxed set now, though) and quite like the way

Owen was portrayed. The show also gave some great input, and created more questions, for my never-ending curiosity about Luke's early life.

Still on the watch for Sebastian Shaw -- no luck yet! He really is an elusive character...

Brian Harris: Hi! Let's talk Leia, shall we? I know I've asked this privately, but let's take the discussion wider. Is Leia an "only child"? Or, do the Organas have children of their own? Is her uppity, yet strong and confident, personality due to being the only focus of the royal family, and hence the population of Alderaan, as well as her diplomatic training? Or, is it down to being spoiled rotten by older "siblings"? Isn't it feasible that the Organas had kids of their own?

Come to think of it, how were the Organas truly perceived? Were they seen as pertinent rulers of Alderaan -- as we are supposed to believe? Or, were they merely the tools to bring in a little tourism? (Like our so-called "royal" family.) Was Leia being difficult having political aspirations -- after all, she's a *princess*! Was Alderaan a democracy, or was it ruled solely by the Organa family? If the latter was true, then Leia was most certainly acting odd when fighting for a democratic government for the galaxy when her own world was ruled by *one* family.

How do the Organas fit in with the Senate? Is their seat in the Senate merely ornamental -- their being royalty an' all -- or were they elected by the population to represent them? If so, who on Alderaan opposed them? And so on and so forth...

Jennifer Moore: Never thought about Luke accepting Han because of Owen before. I liked your parallels, though.

Ming Wathne: Um, Louise and I *can* use computers -- we just don't *own* one! Therefore, *Bad Feeling* is being done solely on Louise's father's AppleMac.

Debbie Kittle: Boy, remind me to be careful about mentioning conversations Louise and I have in the future. I had no idea so many would latch onto the "Wookiee pee" bit!

TLC? If only Zahn had given a little more of this to the Saga!

Louise and Gerald: Hi! So much to write, so little space, but I couldn't leave you out! But, hey, isn't Wedge becoming popular! Oh, and on that topic -- "Hi, Gail!"

Tim Blaes: Do check out DM's "Songs of Faith and Devotion", and if you like it, work backwards through their albums (I found the album very "Vader-ish" and "Luke-ish"). Louise and I were amazed by

what we found. Their music is stirring, imaginative and rather bizarre at times! And, for us at least, fits in with much of our SW writing. Um, and I'm not sure what that says about our current attempts at SW fiction...

Thank you for the lesson on extracting water in a desert -- I live in a very green and wet country (a bit like Dagobah, only not so humid or warm) and was innocently (ignorantly) unaware of such a clever method of farming water. I stand, humbly, corrected.

I, too, would like to know what went between ANH and TESB -- and I have written a couple over the years. It's my favorite time to write about, believe it or not! I like exploring the maturation process that Luke goes through, the building of the relationships between the "big three" -- not to mention the numerous adventures which could take place in this time period.

Well, who would believe it -- I've made it in on four pages! I must apologize if this letter sounds rushed -- it is! And apologies and "Hi!" to those I've not directly mentioned. Four pages is an awful short space to talk to everyone, right? (I'm not complaining, honest, Cheree!)

A final word to our esteemed editor: I believe we all appreciate your efforts for SW fandom, and I for one wish you and your family all the best for the future, and I hope that Randy gains employment soon. I only wish I could lend greater support other than saying an inadequate: "I'm thinking about you."

Cardboard Perversions

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January 29, 1994

Happy New Year! Health, wealth and happiness to all, over the next twelve months. Fewer global calamities would be nice) as well. To all who may have suffered from the fires, floods quakes and other disasters that befell Mother Earth over the last twelve months, my heartfelt prayers and wishes that no one was hurt and property damage was minimal.

It might seem trite to launch right into comments on the last issue after that real-life-takes-priority beginning, but one also needs the respite from real life. For us, it's fandom and SW. How goes that

saying? "Whatever gets you through the day."

Z. P. Florian: Regardless that your "Dirty Tricks" piece was first to read, it remains the first thing I would've commented on anyway. Wonderful and witty! (As is everything you do.) Filled with literally hundreds of ideas for SW stories and even funny in its own right. It gave me an idea of setting up SW stories like a Chinese restaurant menu. One from Column A, such as "Han was upset" or "Luke was upset", "Leia, Threepio, Wedge, etc., was upset". One from Column B, "over the *Falcon*", "over the Rebellion", "over Chewie, over the Force, etc." And one from Column C, "because it wasn't working", "he/she/it was mad", etc. Just mix and match indefinitely.

My second comment, after the sixth snowfall in less than a month, is for Debbie Kittle. "You die!" If I *never* see another snowflake for as long as I live, it'll be too soon. What a miserable winter, so far. Okay, so it's *not* a flood or a quake, and in that perspective, I've got nothing to complain about, but driving in and shoveling that nasty white stuff is the pits.

Marti Schuller and Jacqueline Taero ... and others who are commenting on ROTJ, both negative and positive. A last word, (promise) I don't think of the negative as "bashing" the film. Rather a varied personal opinion/critique/review from many sources with many interesting and informative responses/agreements/disagreements and rebuttals. It's an exchange of ideas, *different* ideas and its one of the things SE does best; providing a forum for that exchange. Debate and discussion is fun. How dull if we all agreed on everything. It concerns me though, when fans seem to take those differing ideas as a personal attack. C'mon, we're discussing a *movie*, or a book or a piece of music ... not each other.

I received a great letter from Brian Harris (this gentleman has been busy, folks. Not letting any Hoth lichens grow under *his* feet) and one of the points he brought up was that each interpretation of the SW universe, be it the original films, or the children's books, or Zahn's trilogy, or the comics, and especially the zine stories, should each be viewed on their own merits and not in comparison to others. In some cases, it would be like comparing apples and oranges. I may consider the children's books silly, but to a child, for whom they were written, this is wonderful stuff. I didn't like Zahn's trilogy because it seemed too Imperial-oriented, not enough of the original characters IMO, but the SW universe is much, much bigger than just Han, Luke and Leia. Brian's astute observation just struck me at the right time, I suppose, and it's made a difference in how I perceive and

appreciate the many variations. Thanks, Brian.

Some news of my own and a few SW tidbits. Had the pleasure and honor of meeting David Prowse several weeks ago. He appeared for an autograph session at a new *Starlog* franchise store in my local mall. Hell of a nice guy, very warm and personable. Was difficult to imagine him as the dark lord. *Starlog*, by the way, has branched out into the franchise store business. This is the second one in my area. They feature everything that's for sale in the magazine as well as comics, toys, collectibles, t-shirts and trading cards.

I also discovered a merchandise catalog called *Advance Comics*, that is available every month at most comic/sci-fi stores. One orders from this catalog through the store much the same as the store owners do and the merchandise usually arrives two months later. Wonderful new SW items advertised in this catalog. Just recently ordered and received a life size cardboard stand-up of Han Solo. (The other characters are also available.) But Han is awesome and I had no idea I could think of such perverse things to do with printed cardboard. I've amazed even myself! New SW pins... like the ST ones, with the Alliance and Imperial logos, crossed lightsabers, TIE fighters, x-wings and the *Falcon*. New t-shirts with pictures taken from the Topps trading card collection, SW-themed birthday cards (Luke fans will love these, he's a major feature). A new *Guide To The SW Universe* will soon be available, updated and greatly enlarged from the original small paperback. West End games just came out with a role playing guide to the Corporate Authority from the Brian Daley books and one on the Tion Hegemony is planned for the future.

I also received a lovely letter from Kathy Tyers, the author of *Truce at Bakura*. I had written her after reading the book, to say thank you for a great SW story. Reading *Truce*, I felt like I was home; once again I was back in a galaxy far, far away. I actually hugged the book when I was finished. In her letter to me, she stated that Bantam Books will be issuing two SW anthologies in the future. One is due out next December in which she has a story and she is also working on one for the second collection.

The mind is just giddy with it all!

Charyl Perry: Regarding your title suggestion for a brown paper wrapper zine ... yours was hysterical. One could run with this, you know. How about *Sorry About The Mess, Heading For the Target Shaft Now, Look at the Size of That Thing!*

Yvette Ghilan: You are absolutely right with your comments made about zine piracy, with one exception:

within fandom. Okay, that's two exceptions. Yes, the zine editor does not expect to make a profit from selling a zine, but the person who *pirates* that zine certainly does and that makes the practice reprehensible. The editor puts in a ton of time and hard work to produce a product, while all the pirate does is stand at a xerox machine. To put it bluntly, pirating someone else's zine is possibly the most unethical, contemptuous thing one fan can do to another and one can have no respect for such a person.

Tina and Veronica: Apologies, Ms. Bentrup and Ms. Wilson, if I've raised your Vader hackles. It was not necessarily the character or the scene that was maudlin and pathetic but rather the dialogs and acting, if you understand the distinction. Perhaps it was also because Vader made such a wonderful, imposing villain that I wish he could have stayed as one. Imagine if you will, if Disney had redeemed Cruella Deville or Maleficent, or if Hannibal Lechter had become a vegetarian. It just wouldn't have been the same.

Louise Turner: No, no! You've got it all wrong and backwards. Work is a horrific distraction from that big thing in life called fandom. And I'll bite, this for Catriona also: Who or what is Commander Noddie?

Cheree: Your comment about Yoda really being human under that warty green skin made me imagine a Z. P. Florian inspired story with the established princess of the saga doing the kissing honors and changing Yoda back to his former self.

Tim Blaes: What?! You never watched *Space Ghost* or *The Herculoids*? (They played back to back in the same hour.) Space Ghost was sort of a Batman in space with a secret ghost cave on an asteroid. Animation was abominable, very stilted, but the concepts and creatures were great.

Again to Cheree... On a final note, I hope your home situation is looking brighter. I think I can say for all, that you're in our thoughts. Fandom may disagree on many points, but we have a 100% track record for being there for each other when needed. May the Force be with each and everyone of you, always.



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Please, tell me once more, Has The Ice Age of 1994 finally ended? I didn't even work one full day the week before last. Then, the following Tuesday, my front door lock broke. Another day down the drain. Of course, it was still icy for the rest of that week, so my supervisor was nice enough to inform me when I developed a nasty stomach virus that we didn't have a part-time job. He's usually a nice guy, but this was overboard. The week I lost all those days was mostly caused by the office being closed for two and a half days *plus* a one-day holiday. The other day, I simply couldn't get in. (I didn't take any time off for the virus and, being in a foul mood, directed the germs in my supe's direction.) One nice thing, tho. I did manage to get my stray to come in from the cold. He was all sniffly and sneezy, so he most likely wouldn't have survived the low temps. He thanked me by stinking up the den (where I kept him away from my other three cats). I don't care. He's a tough old warrior cat and he's alive.

Z. P. Florian's article was fun to read. It's fascinating to see how different people write in different ways. Z. P.'s way is very professional. Mine is simply to get an idea, write a long outline, a bow-wow draft, rough copy, and finished copy. If I ever get the Macintosh of my dreams, maybe I'll stop writing and start typing from the start. (By the way, a bow-wow draft is a rough rough.)

Cheree: I was sorry to hear about Randy losing his job. Any luck in finding a new job yet? Thank goodness for your medical coverage. If you feel it's necessary for you to take a hiatus from the zine, I'm sure everyone will understand. Take as much time as you need. Just ... come back! The idea of SW fandom without SE is unthinkable.

Marti Schuller: Don't scream, but I once wrote a short story in which Beru was Luke's mother and Ben's daughter. It became part of myseries in which Vader is Luke's uncle and Ben Luke's grandfather. Oh, what a tangled web... Oh, yeah, Luke and Leia *aren't* related. I had to strike a balance somewhere. And then there's Han. And what about Naomi?

Mary Jo Fox: I was always pretty sure that Wedge was the Other, but now, thanks to your response to A. G., the other "what" has been answered. Go, Wedge!

Charyl Perry: Whoever said that fans shouldn't be disrespectful to Lucas' characters? T'warn't me!

Sure, great fighters can be great lovers. They just need a nappypoo first.

Vader may not actually be clumsy. Moving around in a full suit of armor, even if it is made out of a light plastic-like material, can't be all that easy. Throwing a person in such an outfit off balance wouldn't be that difficult, no matter how good a fighter he was.

Maggie Nowakowska: Along with the idea of writers putting themselves into their stories, whether true or not, I pass along a bit of advice in reference to accepting comments others make about our writings (all of us, that is). Most of the SW writers, including myself, are desperate for comments on their writings. Be very careful, folks, about the advice you accept. Not all is offered out of good will. Negative comments are fine when offered in a constructive and well-meant way. But, listen very closely to those comments if they are offered out of jealousy; their only intent may be to drag you down. I once had a friend who was a very good fan writer in her own right, but, as my fumbly first stories slowly improved, I noticed that she seemed to like them less and less. This bothered me, but I figured that, as a friend, she was being truthful with me. Then, another friend pointed out that, since I'd had a couple of stories printed, jealousy could be involved. So, I showed this friend my next story which included a *Gunsmoke*-type gun duel between Han and a really slimey ex-crew-mate. Both Han and the slimey guy use tough, stupid language in an attempt to shake each other up. My friend's comment was that I shouldn't have the two of them using such language because people would think that's the kind of person I am. Whoa, now. Was I to take this to mean that I was a Corellian smuggler with a short fuse or a sneaky, rotten, lowdown, murderous pirate? So, point to be taken -- listen closely to criticism. Is it well-intended or self-serving? (It's a good thing this former friend never saw my story where I had Han involved with a sado-masochist!)

Yvette Ghilan: While I can agree with your desire to have various sub-genres of fannish writing in their own separate zines, I do have to point out that the grouping of "smut, pornography and homosexuality" could be interpreted by some people as highly offensive in its intent.

Debbie Kittle: Enjoying winter so far? I do have to say that I'd rather have 13 inches of snow than 3 inches of solid ice. Still, I'd prefer neither. I guess I can't complain, though. It only went to 5 degrees below zero in Philly. One part of Michigan went to 52 below zero one night. I don't even want to *think* about the wind chill factor.

Catriona Campbell: It's been my experience that men interpret women's actions to be due to hormones simply because men's actions are due to hormones -- wars, most hunting, politics, business deals -- not merely sex. If more men thought with their heads, rather than their pubic area, the world would be much more peaceful. If they didn't get such a rise out of warfare and power over others, they wouldn't enjoy life very much. Fortunately, more and more men are seeing how stupidly destructive such an attitude is. It's a shame so much history has had to pass for this change to start. It's an even bigger shame that it will take so much more time before it really has an effect. I'm just glad that I've been around long enough to see a positive change.

Liz Sharpe: Hello dere! Been awhile. Yes, let's get a gang o' fen together when the ice age is over. I'd like that. I have the occasional fan gathering at my place, too. If any local fen are interested in attending, let me know. Local means, in fannish terms, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland. Y'know, the Mid-Atlantic states. We could all sit around and discuss science fiction, books, TV, movies, music, fantasy, writing, drawing, history, mysteries, mythology, religion, and other heavy stuff. Or -- we could sit around like a bunch of happy slugs watching and copying tapes and stuffing pizza and nosh (two of the basic food groups) into our faces. Whatever. You have permission to scratch two of my cats. The other will be hiding under the bed.

Oh, yes, I finally found copies of some of the Dark Horse SW comics. Good stuff. I really enjoyed the history articles fleshing out the SW universe. How many are there altogether? I have 9 of the first 10. This is the American edition with the Indy stories.

Time to stop. Hope this letter makes it to you, Cheree, in time.

Groveling Apologies

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January, 1994

Happy New Year, everyone! Firstly, my groveling apologies to the ever-patient Cheree, who put up with my horrendously-long letter without subjecting it to

the editorial scalpel. It won't happen again, Cheree. Honest!!! On the subject of editing, I was amused to see a 'got' replaced by a 'gotten' in my letter. Boy, you Americans speak funny! (Though Catriona will probably lecture me on the fact that 'gotten' is an old-fashioned Scots way of speaking!)

Right, well, this time around I'll try not to dwell upon Depeche Mode too much, except to say that Catriona and I went to see them in London again in December, and they were just as wonderful, and I'm getting worried because I've never been such a Devotee (sorry, bad pun) of a band before in my life! And it's all Catriona's fault! Well, I must blame someone. . .

I'm glad to see that all the loyal followers of Wedge Antilles are slowly creeping out of the woodwork. But I think, Jacqueline Taero, that I'll give the Wedgies a miss (is that what Rebel pilots do with those leg straps??). And thanks, Maggie Nowakowska, for alerting me to yet another Wedge tale which I have missed. I'm trying to track down the fanlit appearances of that elusive pilot, and know for sure that I missed a story in *Shadowstar* 24, I think it was, called "Allegro Non Troppo". It's unfortunate, because it's one *Shadowstar* that the great Catriona doesn't have in her collection (how dare she!).

Nora Mayers: You've got Wedge appearing in a novel? Tell me more! I've always found him an immensely interesting character to work with. You get just enough information from the films and the novels which hints at his character and its development, but everything else is unknown territory. I'd love to read your interpretation of him. Hopefully I'll have earned enough money to order a copy of your novel from you when it comes out, but right now my horse is guzzling all my intermittent wages. Your baby sounds wonderful. Mine's getting on a bit, I'm afraid. His name's Squire Thomas, and he's a 15.3 hands chestnut Hackney/Connemara cross who's now in his early twenties. He's a lovely old boy, who's still fit and healthy but does have intermittent arthritis and is cursed with navicular disease. So he's slightly large and doesn't do much more than hacking and easy schooling. But I love him all the same!!! Even when he tries zooming off with me. Stupid animal doesn't know his own limitations and keeps straining muscles in his quarters because he jogs and has galloping and bucking sprees in the field with his friends.

Mary Jo Fox: Oh my! Suddenly, everything is clear about those Zahn novels! You've illuminated one of the great mysteries of the Galaxy for me. When I first read Wedge's bedroom scene in *Heir to*

the Empire, I was very despondent. Oh dear, I thought, this boy's been in three films and a Zahn novel and he still sleeps alone at night? The inferences I gained from this revelation were startling. I thought that it was clearly the case that Wedge and Luke had something going on between them for years. But now you've vindicated the poor boy. The truth is that he and Leia have been secret lovers all along! That's why he's never shackled up with anyone else. Whatever will Han say??

I'm impressed by your adaptability in finding a suitable writing environment. When I write, everything has to be just perfect. I have to have exactly the right music for the piece I'm working on, and prefer to be working on the word processor. Otherwise, the muse stays on vacation. And then I'll work exhaustively on one project, and then I'll switch to something else and hate what I've just been working on before, etc. And then when things get too bad I'll give poor Catriona a call and gripe and whine down the phone at her. All I can say to you guys is be glad that you aren't all living in each other's pockets, believe me!! You don't have to put up with frustrated writers complaining at you. How were Depeche, by the way? Did they play "Fly on the Windscreen"? We were waiting for it at Wembley with bated breath when wee Martin trundled on to sing "Somebody" instead. That took the entire audience by surprise, I can tell you. Well I suppose "Fly" isn't exactly a suitable song for Christmas, is it?

Barbara Anderson: Yeah, I remember the lead codpieces. I thought I'd credited *Electric Sheep* at the time, but maybe the reference got lost somewhere along the line.

Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero: Hear, hear. I agree wholeheartedly with your observations regarding the wisdom of appointing Han and Lando as generals in ROTJ. There'll be a lot of slighted Rebel personnel backbiting over that, won't there? Sadly, it seems to be the case of who you know, rather than your track record, in the SW universe, doesn't it? Just like our own. That pair are buddies of Leia, so they get the promotions. Poor Wedge, of course, gets ignored. Yesterday's man, you see, because his contacts either got felled with the *Tantive* or whittled away over the years. And taking back this argument into the dim and distant past... It's a bit much that dear Luke ended up with control of Red Squad in the Battle of Yavin. Wedge and Biggs get bypassed completely, even though Red Leader still surely doesn't have much understanding of young Skywalker's command capabilities. Wedge, being a

weak-willed little sap, just swallows this without a word (which is why I'm sure the character's supposed to be younger than Luke, like he is in the novelization and the script of ANH. He acts that way all the way through Yavin and Hoth, even if he doesn't look it). I'm more surprised by Biggs' attitude. He's the man who's always functioned as Luke's hero-figure for years on Tatooine, and yet he's suddenly quite happy to be Skywalker's second. Doesn't quite ring true, I'm afraid. At this point, Catriona would loftily proclaim that it is naturally Luke's in-born leadership qualities shining through. Though maybe it's a case of both Biggs and Wedge wanting to pass the buck in case of trouble. You can just see it, can't you? Our heroes screw up the Yavin mission and get caught by the Empire. Then out come the classic lines from Darklighter and Antilles: "Wasn't us that tried to blow up your Death Star, Lord Vader. It was that blond chap over there. He's the one in charge. We was only obeying orders, Guv..."

And why didn't the surviving pilots get medals awarded to them after Yavin?? I mean, come on, there's no justice in this place, is there? Solo slopes off, then breezes in at the last minute, and whoop! there he is getting accolades piled upon him by the Alliance. That's really going to boost morale amongst the old regulars, isn't it? Okay, so Wedge's departure from the battle was a little ignominious, to say the least... He still should have been given a medal for having the guts to stand up to that thing in the first place!

No offense intended to Luke or Han fans! It's Alliance Command who should be put up against a wall and shot. If this is what their military section's like, how's their government going to turn out? It'll be riddled with corruption before you can say "Come back, Emperor Palpatine, all is forgiven..."

And as a final note to you both, yes, it is quite bizarre that Lando's been made a general in a naval battle. Maybe "General" is a rank which means absolutely nothing, like being appointed to the House of Lords in Britain. They deal them out as favors and the rank isn't worth the tin-plate that goes into the insignia. People are appointed because they are "in" with the command staff, and not because they hold any military value. Otherwise it just does not make military sense. If you're a military strategist planning the future of the Galaxy, you're going to depend more upon proven competence and reliability than on a colleague's hearsay.

Whoa, enough of the sniping at the heroes! You're probably all wondering why I'm a fan at all, if

all I do is complain about the credibility of Alliance actions... I'm afraid that my attitude towards the Saga gets soured within five minutes of the first film starting. Because I've worked with Wedge (metaphorically speaking, of course!!) for almost ten years now my whole view is colored by the loss of the *Tantive IV*. It means a lot to him, so it's come to mean a lot to me, too. What I originally saw as a rip-roaring gunfight and a Dramatic Entrance by a Great Screen Villain has now become utter damage to me, surpassed only by the annihilation of poor old Alderaan. I have to admit that most of the characters I write about had their lives irrevocably changed by the taking of the *Tantive IV*, and it's not something which they can easily forget about, even so much later in the heady days which follow the Battle of Endor.

Debbie Kittle: How can you be so cruel as to compare Chewie's alleged misdemeanor to dogs urinating in strange places in vet hospitals? Poor Chewie! Is he no better than some great, furry hyper-intelligent Rottweiler? Mind you, perhaps Rottweilers would make skilled starship mechanics if they had been given the right paws for it. I know for a fact that my cats and my horse have all performed some pretty neat tricks in the past: my horse understands the value of deception and we have a cat who has a rudimentary grasp of metaphor. I'm afraid I'll go for the Z. P. Florian theory: the poor Wookiee had no alternative to the floor! Jabba the Hutt, I'm sure, does not ascribe to the SW equivalent of the Geneva Convention and so comfortable living accommodations for prisoners will be last on his list of priorities. I'm amazed how this Wookiee-piss thing has taken off the way it has! Careless talk costs lives, they say, so I'll think twice before I make casual comments regarding Wookiee hygiene while watching certain films in the company of Ms. Campbell...

And now a P.S. to Pat Nussman. You keep quoting Cherryh examples... Are you by any chance fond of her work?? I personally think she's a wonderful writer, although I think you either love her or you hate her. Before I met Catriona and became involved in SE, her books were almost weaning me away from my love of SW. There's such a depth to the Union-Alliance universe, and her characters are so complex and unconventional. There are also some very strange parallels to the SW universe, what with the cloned armies of Union, and the Alliance of free-enterprise spacers...

Gerald Crotty: No gore in *Jurassic Park*? True enough, but one piece of implied gore did make me wince. I refer, of course, not to severed arms or other

unimportant trivia, but to the unfortunate cow that made a snack for the velociraptors. The first time I saw it, I felt quite queasy, and I think the reason for that was precisely because we didn't see it! The threshing leaves and anguished moos were quite enough to make a good little vegetarian quiver with inadvertent sympathy. To hell with the humans! (Especially the darling bratlings, they deserve to be velociraptor-fodder, any day.) I don't care what happens to them. It's the cow that matters!

Michelle Malkin: I hope your kitty-moving goes smoothly. I can sympathise. I had to move my horse several months ago when his old accommodation was sold to new owners. Problem is that I'd accumulated a cat and her kitten there four years ago after they adopted us. Let's just say that I am not looking forward to transferring them home. They're not exactly wild but they're outdoor beasts and our two domestic pussies will have a screaming fit when these black monsters invade their territory. But they've got nowhere else to go, so I'm left with no alternative.

Catherine Churko: Ah, there's someone else out there who goes into paroxysms of delight when the shuttle comes into land on Endor, is there? I think that sequence is utterly, utterly stunning -- I once tried to paint an approximation of it long ago, it impressed me so much. Considering that I cannot paint and I cannot draw, that was quite a monumental effort on my part. Needless to say, my attempt was pitiful... I think I'll leave the artwork to the experts!

Tina Bentrup: Still nothing to report on the Seb Shaw network, I'm afraid. I don't watch much telly, you see. I can only assume he's still alive -- put it this way, I haven't heard anything to the contrary. He probably spends all of his time reminiscing at the Garrick Club...

Finally, can I say 'hi' to silent Enclaver Gail Mihara? We had a great time when she came over to see "Lust", and I'm still stunned by the CD set. And meeting the great Denis backstage after the show was incredible. Thanks for a fun couple of days, Gail!! And come over for Worldcon in '95. You'll be most welcome!

Hey, I've succeeded! I've succeeded in virtually halving my letter length! Let's hope that SE keeps on going into '94 and beyond. My sincere best wishes for the future, Cheese. SE isn't just a letterzine, it's more like an institution. And I know that in the short time I've been here, I've had a great time and met a lot of fun people. And -- all you you fans out there -- if the worst comes the worst and there is an enforced hiatus in the publication of this noble letterzine, then

please write to me!! I just love talking SW, writing, horses, Roman empires, cats, *anything*!!

May the Force be With You All in the coming Year!

SE Hyperport

Catherine Churko
590 Ft. Washington Ave #1M
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January 30, 1994

...dropping off my communique at the SE Hyperport. Hello, family...

Happy New Year. (I also celebrate it in the spring when the flowers seriously kick in.)

My prayers/recovery vibes go out to all those frozen/snowed, flooded, mudded, burned-out or shaken up tectonically speaking, over the last few months. Scary and surreal. Also good thoughts to all experiencing health problems for healing.

I ended up at that temp job 3 months. But it wasn't enough to get me to MWC'94. Oh, well, y'all have a great time. Hopefully I'll see you in '95. Unless Kathy Agel pulls off this "We-Can't-Wait-for-MWC-Con" somewhere/when in NJ/November '94, wherein at least some of the Eastern Enclave will sojourn to.

The job was so far from home and major areas of errands/enjoyments, I lost a fair amount of extra time for pro art. Also because I was catching up on other stuff, after 7 months of intense pro art work on portfolio.

But Wanda Lybarger finally helped me to see I was severely berating myself for not doing art these past 3 months instead of celebrating the previous progress. I am now starting some exciting new pieces. Thanks, Wanda!

I didn't make the Society of Illustrators Show. The worst part was getting the notice a week earlier than I began to expect it. Caught me flat out.

Still, since we found out that week that my dad had early-detected prostate cancer, maybe the above was just as well. Then we found out just before the holidays that his bone scan is clean (so much merrier were we!). By the time this sees print, he'll have done his 6 week treatment. He's in pretty good spirits. Good thoughts are requested again. Mom is doing fine, thanks again to all sending good vibes.

Zine/Art Technicals: At Kinko's they have a xerox choice called "photo-mode". It screens continuous art/photos into line half-tones instead of half-tone dots. Have it done on laser-bond paper. The copies made from these h/t's are quite good and what you would see in a zine.

I encourage any artist/editor who'd like to do continuous tone art but have been prevented by prices of printers screening or veloxes who can, "get thee to a Kinko's". Go and experiment. I showed my samples to Cheree and will be doing some TF illos in this style/reproduction. The lightest greys do tend to drop out so you'll have to adjust your drawings and tone/textural reproduction with the continuous tone art from here on in.

Onward... Z.P.: Loved your writer's inspiration piece. Thank you, Cheree, panelists, and audience for the SW fandom panel/transcript.

Marti: I look forward to whatever stories I can get to read of yours in the zines. In case my note gets lost, my good wishes go out to you and I hope my phone call didn't startle you too much. We didn't get in until 3 a.m. (about 3 hours late!).

Nora: Glad to know you are better and had such caring support. Please, though, in your enthusiasm for GENie, etc., remember those of us who have no means to participate in this kind of stuff yet, even if we'd like to from time to time. It's a little frustrating.

Charyl: Good luck with *Technological Terror*. I'll just dream about renting a \$10,000 graphic/illo arts system to add to my loved traditional techniques.

Maggie: In some of my force-active civilizations that Luke meets up with, they don't always rely on the Force. The place they are coming from is that since they are physical beings, they don't want to ignore their bodies (re: telekinesis, levitation of self, etc.). Of course, they also guard against mental abuse Force-wise.

In another scenario, Luke on our Earth is stunned by the variety of people and cultures that are crammed onto one little planet with nowhere else to go. While his known galaxy is myriad in its variety, the planets themselves tend toward only a few kinds of cultures. (Sure, this is an outgrowth of the writers having to conjure up a variety, but "my" Luke spontaneously blurted out this amazement.) Some social/political scientists have postulated Earth-wise it is around 10% of a population that is the most inclined toward examining change/experimentation, etc., in personal/social realms. If it is strong/successful enough, it will ripple through the rest of the people.

Yvette: Thanks for your kind thoughts. Seeing

the trilogy that way could give you quite a different view.

Michelle: Oh, good luck on your unplanned move. I didn't see the x-ray stuff until I saw ROTJ on VCR. I turned on the frame-by-frame mode to check what I thought I saw. I think his rib cage also appears a few seconds later, along with the skull.

Barbara Anderson: Bepin Cloud Sculpting? Ooo, I can see it. (See, you do have an artistic soul.) Chortled over your description on story form -- build-up, "tasteful" scenes and the outtakes. Yes, background, motive, emotion, some sense of plot do count in x-rated stuff.

Tina: Your trio cartoon was a hoot! Congrats on skiffikit and clanky medaille. :-). And, go Beejay!

Brian/Ming: I still have a 30-year-old Etch-a-Sketch. It doesn't have telepathic mode, tho. (Nice twist, Brian.)

Louise: Hi -- Guess my notoriety also precedes me, hey? Mucho interesting comments on SW/Roman Empire. When I get some extra, extra income, I might ask you about the British classics. Thanks. I haven't even gotten through my few contributors' copies because of my pro-art activities. Ooo, what's *theoretical* archaeology?

Gerald: I didn't take the Ewoks in a totally comic mode since their architectural work in the platforms/walkways was very impressive. But when that bola (rope and rocks) swings around in the Ewok's face, it was a stupid kind of slapstick and briefly took me out of the movie's spell. Liked your Solo/Jabba/Fett alternative as the route to Han's eventual turning back.

Treena: Hi! I was referring to B.F. Fake I.D. idea. Plausible, too.

Tim: The new *Art of SW*... looks quite nice. That rock pyramid/H₂O info was very interesting. Love that kind of stuff.

Liz: Welcome back. I like that subtle woodcraft/trap exploration. Good luck with your patch of green bliss (tote those soil-conditioning bags) :-).!

Best wishes to all! I know I still owe notes and letters. Creatively yours in the Force...



Tina Bentrup
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Knoxville, TN 37918

Hello, all!

Here I am, late as usual.

ZeePee: Thanks for sharing your tricks of the trade. For me, the hardest thing about writing is making myself do it. What time of day do you do most of your "typing like crazy"? Do you have a hard time working when the weather is nice? What I am saying, you live near DC, the weather's never nice there! (smile)

For the Record: On pages 6 and 7 of the "State of the Union", the quotations attributed to me were not actually said by me. Though I do work in a library, I am not a Librarian; and the last time I looked at *Publisher's Weekly* was in 1989. Or 1988. And I do own a computer, the one I'm sitting at right now. But on page 12, that is me saying Eofan, etc. ((Ed: *Profound apologies, Tina. The person who made the library remarks was off-camera on the videotape I was transcribing from, but it sounded like you and the library remarks caused me to put two and three together and get six. So sorry! Does anyone know who the mystery speaker was??*))

Cheree: I hope by now some good news has come your way. I remember a couple of times when Dan was laid off from jobs, and at the time it seemed like the end of the world, but in the long run, it turned out for the better. Of course, he had not been in one job as long as Randy has.

Please keep SE going no matter what, even if you have to charge more and slow down your output. I'd gladly pay double the cost if it would help. SE is my lifeline!

SW Chess Set: Wow, that's really weird. I had been thinking about a chess set also. I saw Yoda and Palpatine as the kings, because they're slow and don't move around much; Luke and Vader as the queens, the most powerful pieces; Han and Lando as knights; Leia and Mon Mothma as bishops, the droids as rooks perhaps? Maybe the two Death Stars as the rooks on the Black side. Rooks are so sinister. Ewoks vs. stormtroopers as pawns seems about right. Any other chessie ideas out there?

Marti: I always like it when people shed new light on things I thought I had made up my mind about. Such as the scene on Endor with Leia and Han. I'll be less critical the next time I watch it.

Mary Jo: My "Vader Shrine" was a gray ceramic bust of Vader that I bought at a flea market for \$5.

The eyes and grid and breastplate are punched through so that when you put a Christmas light inside it, it shines forth very cheerily. Or eerily.

Sure, Wedge has black hair, but so did Anakin (well, black eyebrows anyway). So "Jaina", if you buy her, would come by her black hair legitimately.

Charyl: Hey there, you old Technological Terror you. Ooooh, I *love* the parallel you drew between Palpie and Herod. Killing all the newborns on the planet! Lully, lullay, thou little tiny Jedi.

I have to agree with you about Jedi turning darkside. Force training is a potent weapon, like having the Bomb. The Jedi organization could not permit someone to use these powers for harm. I'm sure the Jedi Masters disliked enforcing this discipline, but they had sworn to protect the Galaxy.

Re James Earl Jones... He's glowering at me right now, old Gabriel himself, from out of a white ceramic R2D2 picture-frame. In so many ways, he truly embodies Darth Vader. I wonder if George will use his voice again in the Prequel.

Artoo and Threepio are not recent models; according to George, they're the only characters that remain constant throughout the whole saga. So that would make them at least 20 years obsolete.

That was a neat idea about Vader hating his own clumsiness ... only he doesn't look all that clumsy to me (pant, pant). But he would be a perfectionist, I think, and having overcome enormous handicaps himself, he would have little patience with ineptness in others.

Allgemeine: How did you fare when the Rhine flooded? We saw it on the news and I thought of you.

Maggie: I too have been thinking about Mon Mothma as President of the Galaxy. In all the spinoffs, of which there are getting to be a bewildering number, it is taken for granted that she would step right in there, but I wonder.

My comment about putting oneself into a story: I guess I just wanted to encourage new fan writers not to be too self-conscious about the Mary Sue label. Brooding too much on possible criticism is very inhibiting to one's output; at least it is to mine.

Yvette: What an experience, seeing the whole Trilogy for the first time in less than a month. You got a mega-dose!

Brian: Why is "L.L." anal retentive? And what were the "certain conditions" under which the high school jock would befriend the yearbook photographer? I went to a girls' boarding school, you see, and missed out on a lot.

Pat Nussman: I'm glad to hear someone standing

up for the Leia-as-a-virgin POV. Maybe I'm just the old-fashioned type, but I think there is a kind of innocence in the SW universe. People like Luke, Leia, Chewie, Yoda, the Ewoks, embody this innocence. Leia's been involved with the Rebellion since an early age, and Maggie's quote about the private life of a revolutionary fits right in here. I think Leia never really had a private life until she met Han.

Ming: How do I get hold of the Swedish *Dark Lord* #3? Do you have one in the Library? (smile)

Debbie Kittle: Count me in as another winter person, a Capricorn in fact. I love wearing sweaters and feeling "indoorsy" and not guilty about reading and writing. But I love all four seasons and wouldn't want to miss any of them.

If you'd like to see Palpie in yet another role, check out the movie *Gorky Park*. He has a small but delicious part in that.

Louise of Weir: Really enjoyed your thoughts on the Romans, the Soviets, and empires in general. Great stuff!

You're right, Shaw the Obscure seems to be mostly a theater man, but he's been in a lot of movies as well (though none you've ever heard of). And some television. The latter is what I know least about, so anything you can tell me would be welcome.

Meanwhile, I have written to the RSC and gotten his agent's address; now I'm waiting for his agent to answer. Hopefully I'll have something to report next ish.

Tractor beam controls? Mon Mothma's possibly pregnant friend? DANG! Guess I'll have to watch the movies again!!

And how do I get a copy of *Tydirium*?

Gerald Crotchy ... er ... Crotty: (Sorry! One of those Freudian typos!) About Chewie and that hanging venison ... did you ever think how long it had been since the poor Wook had had a square meal? In fact, none of our heroes ever seem to eat. Luke just fiddles with his food in ANH, Yoda snitches C-rations in TESB, and nobody has much of an appetite at the banquet on Bespin. Maybe that's why Chewie howls when he sees Vader at the head of the table! He knows he's not going to get those refreshments!

Catrina: Loved your idea about Luke's fake I.D. Of course that's why Uncle Owen kept him down on the farm! And did you notice that when the stormtrooper in Mos Eisley asked to see Luke's identification, *that's* when Obi-Wan jumped in with the Force? I'm so glad you're here to tell us these things!

In an episode of *Bergerac*, eh? We don't get that

here. Is it about Cyrano? I'll see if I can find anything about it in the Library. If you ever remember the name of that detective show, please let me know!

Fiorenzo: Tum, tum, tum, tum, ta-dum, tum, ta-dum!!

How do you learn all this stuff about upcoming SW spinoffs? I'm just now reading *The Last Command*, and I know about the new trilogy, *Truce at Bakura*. But it sounds like this is only the beginning. Does anyone else worry that maybe it's too much of a good thing? It's getting harder and harder not to be influenced by all this new material.

Your theory about Palpie is intriguing. I like the idea of Anakin as "a shining good guy" whom Palpatine seeks to corrupt.

Jacqueline: Nobody wears timepieces in that galaxy because all infants are implanted with tiny chronometers at birth, behind their left ears, maybe.

Love your Prequel scenario. Sounds like Gilbert & Sullivan.

Yeah, I think Kenobi was obsessed with Vader, and vice versa. Vader's always saying things like, "Obi-Wan cannot help him now" and "Obi-Wan has taught you well," and "Obi-Wan once thought as you do." Must have been a really close friendship.

Good droid questions. I'll need some more time to think.

Veronica: I've got a lump in my throat from reading your LoC.

Tim Blaes: I know you must be thinking: "I sent her a flyer for *Tales of the Leather Rocket*, and I never heard from her again..." But don't take it personally, I do it to everybody.

I like your exoskeleton idea! And your image of Leia being carried to her cell. I saw Carrie Fisher recently on *American Masters* on PBS and really liked her, now that she's getting to be middle-aged like me. She's so earthy and honest. Yeah, I'd love to see her do a SW novel. And I'd love to *hear* a ROTJ radio show! But I suppose it'll never happen. How would you compare Brock Peters with JEJ?

Liz Sharpe: Howdy! You must be one-a them Eofen. Please put me on your DC list. The cluster of Enclavers within and around the Beltway amazes me, too, and hooray for you volunteering.

'Bout that Wookiee Pee: Sure he pissed in the puddle on the floor. All the other prisoners had. There was no place else to go. Besides, I don't think Chewie was all that refined; he gets kind of doggy from time to time.

Another possibility: On Tatooine, water was

wealth. While moisture farmers struggled to distill dew from the desert, Jabba had a huge underground reservoir of pure H₂O.

Did anyone see George on *American Masters* on PBS? It was entitled "Heroes, Myth and Magic." The first five minutes of it sent me over the moon! Veronica, Cheryl Pryor, were you there?

Han wasn't all *that* dumb in ROTJ. He sure did a better job at talking like an Imperial. He's come a long way since "We're all fine here... How are you?"

About Spice: Han has to smuggle it, but Luke had been told that Anakin was "a navigator on a spice freighter". So spice, whatever it is, must have been legal at one time.

My Nomination for Anakin in the Prequel: Daniel Davis, the "Moriarty" of the Holodeck.

Tabloid Headlines: Princess to Wed Former Smuggler! Solo, Organa, Wookiee Threesome! Emperor's Ghost Seen by Jawa!

That's all for now!

Recovering

Carolyn Golledge
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January 25, 1994

G'day everyone!

This'll have to be short because I'm way behind schedule! What a start to the New Year! Yes, my family and I survived the fires okay, but they came too close for comfort! Now the task is to help the wildlife ... or what's left of it.

Must thank all those who sent get well wishes. I recovered well from the operation and hope to continue on to much improved health.

During my convalescence I very much enjoyed reading Kathy Tyers' *Truce at Bakura*. What a refreshingly accurate portrayal of the main characters, a truly repulsive, evil enemy, and a fascinating new character... I really felt for the kid brainwashed by the aliens and was moved by Luke's response to him. Now *that's* what it means to be a Jedi!

If I ever get organized (that's a laugh cue!), I hope

to write a thank you note to Ms. Tyers for rescuing us from Zahn!

And congratulations, too, to Z. P. Florian for a very useful, concise article about the ways and means of keeping yourself writing! Yep, ask yourself a myriad of questions from all kinds of directions and sources ... including the completed story!

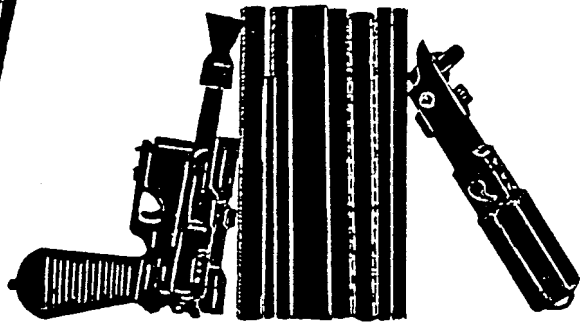
Hope to see you all again at MediaWest ... if I start swimming now, I should just get there on time!

Want to ask, has anyone out there read Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series? In my humble estimation, it's brilliant, the best SF/F I've come across since Tolkien, vastly superior to Eddings. A real (impossible!) yardstick for my own fantasy writing. The man is intimidating both in his product and his credentials!

Welcome back to Liz Sharpe (speaking of damn good writers!), and three cheers for your comments on ROTJ! "Clumsiness in presentation, not content" ... precisely! ... though personally, I could have done without a rerun on the Death Star pyrotechnics! (Did anyone notice in *The Making of ROTJ*, Jabba's throne room scene ... Ford had his hands tied/handcuffed all the while he was talking to Marquand! Perhaps the director figured it was his only means of protection from strangulation! Hey, Liz, that's one great idea for a story to Han's rescue! Moral commitment would sure scare him off ... it was only impending death that had him almost able to face it. When he found himself resurrected, by anyone other than Leia, he'd probably run like hell! Of course, Solo would be terribly miffed if Leia fell for his own clone! That would have had him return PDQ ... and then Leia could choose which one (if any! Once she heard that story!) she wanted! Come on, Liz, write it!

A thousand more things I wanted to comment on, but I'm outa time. (Cheers cheers!) Well, maybe next time! There will be a next time, I hope! Which brings me to:

Last but definitely not least, I want to thank Cheree for continuing to keep us all informed and united via her hard work and dedication despite her own problems. She's one in a million, isn't she? I'm sure you'll join me in offering whatever support we can find to help her continue with this meeting place for our ideas, *and* keep herself sane and healthy! Good one, Cheree! See you at the Mos Eisley Marketplace! (I hope!)



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J. LAW '93

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BLUE HARVEST. A publication for followers of the SW Saga. First issue available August 1993. Accepting articles, fiction, opinions, and art from SW fans worldwide! Issue one includes Disney's Star Tours reviewed, trading card guide and review, editorials, fiction, original artwork and more! For submission, subscription or advertising rates, write to: Blue Harvest, c/o Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181, or James Teitlebaum, P. O. Box 138488, Chicago, IL 60613-8488.

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CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #3. The Empire may have fallen but Han Solo and the princess aren't exactly leading a quiet life together... During the Clone Wars, Princess Carla ignores a warning and interrupts an escape to buy "Milk for the Baby"; Lando Calrissian becomes embroiled in political intrigue when his pal Solo asks him to track down a woman who may have stolen an ancient relic from Alderaan; "Princess Leia Pays a Call" on her sister-in-law, and is amazed when her husband uses "The Old Jedi Mind Trick." There's much more in this biggest *Chronicles* yet! Stories by Denyse M. Bridger, Julie Gelbart, and Susan Deborah Smith. Illustrated by Julie Gelbart, J. M. McClure, Kathy Miller and Brandon Tucker. 160 pages; perfect bound; printed on recycled paper. \$16.00 US, \$18.00 Canada (US dollars); \$20.00 overseas (US dollars). Shipped priority mail within the US, air printed matter abroad. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820. Volume #2 still available at \$14.00; \$16.00; \$18.00 respectively. SASE for info about reprints of #1.

CLOUD CITY: FREEZING CHAMBER 1. Here comes the volume that features over two years of

fannish first quality activity from the first Italian SW club! Fiction, articles, cartoons and the most stunning artwork you're ever going to see gathered together in one volume and translated into English! Cover by Dianne Smith. \$15.00 Europe, \$18.00 overseas airmail. Make orders payable to: Fiorenzo Delle Rupi, Casella Postale 771 AA/PP., 06100 Perugia, Italy.

CROSSFIRE ZONE, a new, irreverent quarterly zine just for the fun of it. For more info, SASE Melanie Guttierrez, 6017 West End Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, or Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marerro, LA 70072-9998.

FIELD STUDIES #3. All Indiana Jones zine back with a new, action-packed issue. Stories by Cargill, Florian, Sleeman, Virgil, Webster and Weddell. Color cover by Wanda Lybarger. Interior art by Lybarger, Dani, Crotty, Martynn, Florian, and others. Available in January, 1994. \$15.00 priority mail, \$20.00 overseas airmail. Please make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

FORCE'S LIGHT #1. Re-released with 80 pages of new art and fiction. 150 pages. \$10 before Feb. 28, 1994. Contact Ed Schodde, P.O. Box 10142, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0142.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #5. The "romance" edition! He drew women like a magnet and Hanna Beru could not resist him. What dark forces plotted against them? Can Leia survive the desires of two men? What tragic secret is Han Solo hiding? Luke Skywalker must find the lost Jedi secrets - and his only link is a mysterious and desirable woman! The usual roundup of suspects, quality writing and fun! You'll love the color cover spoofing Johanna Lindsey! 200+ pages. \$17.00 US/FC; \$22.00 Europe. Checks to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, PO Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #4. The secrets of the Rebel stars exposed! Will a certain former smuggler complete his mission--or end up in the slammer? Was the Bespin incident really a happy ending? Were those Kessel runs as peaceful as Han remembers? Plus the exciting 76 page conclusion to Hanna Beru on Ord Mantell. 136 pages. \$12.50 US/FC; \$17.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #3. What monumental battle are the Rebels *losing* the day after the Death Star? What's General Solo's *son* up to with a heavy blaster and a bottle of Upland Reserves? Han and Chewie with a steady, legal(?) job! What Naughty Bits of trouble is Hanna Beru in now? 146 pages. \$12.50 US/FC; \$17.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #2. How did Han lose his cookies? The real scoop behind the royal wedding? Is the honeymoon over? Will Beru make the worst dressed list? Plus much more art and fun. 185 pages. \$14.50 US/FC; \$19.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #1. Thrills, chills, laughs, romance and adventure! *Does* everyone have the Force? What "little" surprise does Han have for Luke? Leia has the Wedding Bell Blues! Color covers, cartoons and more! 77+ pages. \$9.50 US/FC; \$13.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

IMPERIUM #3. Stories by Florian, Nowakowska, Wilson, others. Cover by Mark Fisher. 98 pp., spiral bound. \$13.00. Make checks payable to Kirk Taskila, but send c/o Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Ave., New York, NY 10024.

JANDRA. An independent story by Lucy Rhonur. 51 pages. SASE for info to Bantha Books, 1482 York Avenue, Suite 5D, New York, NY 10021.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES. Indiana Jones letterzine. This is intended to be a simple no-frills letterzine with lots of lively discussion. In addition to the movie trilogy, I hope to see discussion of *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* and the new series of novels and comic books. All letters, articles, zine reviews or classified ads can be submitted on IBM 5-1/4" disks in ASCII format. Published quarterly. \$2.50 per issue (overseas add 50 cents extra for postage). Make all checks payable to Jeannie Webster, 416 E. 241st St., Woodlawn, Bronx, NY 10470.

REMOTE CONTROL #3 includes fiction by Knights (*Rat Patrol*), Gillilan (*Simon & Simon*), Florian (SW), Webster (Indiana Jones), DeVries (*Young Riders*), Lane (*Alien Nation*), Holt and Grigsby (WOTW),

McCurry (*Buck Rogers*), Hicks (UNCLE), Paulson (*Real Ghostbusters*), Wilson (*Magnum*), Karmell (*Professionals*), Martin (*Hawaii 5-0*), Wells (*Wild, Wild West*). Poetry by Matoris and Batterby. Illustrations by Florian, Lane, Kirby, Larimer, and Glenn. Laser printed, photocopied, 218 pp., GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$30.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. RC#1 (Fan Q and Star Awards winner) and #2 (Fan Q winner) are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

STARNODES. A collection of SW stories by Yvette Ghilan. Contents include "Shore Leave," "Destiny's Knell," "Meeting with an Old Man," "One Night on Endor," "Genesis," and "To Catch a Skywalker." Computer printed. Bound in cardboard covered with sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$25.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

TALKING WITH... A FORUM FOR MEDIA FANS. A smaller format zine of commentary and issues. A place where fans can discuss all the many issues that arise in the worlds of fandom. Issues to be discussed include all aspects of cons, fanfic, zines, fan clubs, relationships, feminism... Hey, anything goes, folks! Do you have an insight or a gripe to share regarding any aspect of fandom or life in general? Put in the form of a LoC or an article and send it it. First issue will be released October 1993. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #1 includes Classic Trek stories from Baudoin, Graham, Lee, Sodaro, and Smithson; TNG fiction from Ames, Benoit, Chapple, Morris, and a novella by Cottrell; poems and filks by Bloebaum, Goldstein, McMillan and Stone. Cover by Myers, interior art by Hebert, Humphrey, and Kenealy; cartoons by Miles. Photocopied, GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$29.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE NEXUS CHRONICLES. A collection of all *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle, exploring the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Written by Kathryn Agel. \$10.00 in person, \$14.00 priority mail (insured), \$16.00 Canada (US funds only);

\$19.00 UK. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

UNEXPECTED ALLIANCES. A *Wizards and Warriors* zine by Susan Deborah Smith. No frills: \$9.00 US, \$10.00 Canada, \$12.00 overseas. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

VOICES. The collected SW poetry of Yvette Ghilan. 44 poems in the voices of Luke, Leia, Han, Obi-Wan, Darth Vader, the Emperor and "X", Luke and Leia's mother. Computer printed, bound in cardboard covered in sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$15.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

WE GOT ONE! The first issue of our *Real Ghostbusters* zine includes fiction by Paulson, Nickell, Beetem, Dickerson, Morris, Van Fossen, and Riddle. Illustrations by Riddle, Howarth, and Van Fossen. Special art portfolio by Schreiber. Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #2 is now open for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks, and art. Stories from all timeframes are encouraged, with G to R ratings. No slash or gratuitous violence will be accepted. Anticipated publication date March 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ANOTHER SKY... #6. Already almost half full. We're still looking for art, poetry, and fiction. Luke or original "people". No Han-starring, slash or profanity. SASE Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marerro, LA 70072-9998.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Cat Anson, Catriona

Campbell, Cheree Cargill, Yvette Ghilan, Carol Hines-Stroede, Marti Schuller, Jacqueline Taero, Louise Turner, Veronica Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Catherine Churko, Gerald Crotty, Z. P. Florian, Wanda Lybarger, Melanie Guttierrez, Nancy Stasulis, and more! SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #8. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out January 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #9. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out May 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BLUE HARVEST. Episode Two. Every good zine deserves a sequel. Episode Two promises thrills, chills, news, views, and enough cool stuff to kill a space cruiser. Coming to your galaxy February 1994. Episode One still available. SASE Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

DO YOU CALL THIS ARCHAEOLOGY? First there was *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, followed closely by *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, ending with the spectacular *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Now you can see our dashing hero, Indiana Jones, growing up in *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. This is a new fanzine for fans of this excellent show and is now looking for submissions, i.e., stories, artwork, poetry. The zine is looking for material based on Indy aged 8 (played by Corey Carrier), and especially stories based on 17 year old Indy (played by Sean Patrick Flanery). Will consider any material based on Harrison Ford's Indy. Not forgetting 90 year old Indy (played by George Hall). Let your mind travel the world, be Indy's travelling companion, and visit the seven wonders of the world! For further details and a writer's guideline, send an SAE and two IRC's plus all submissions to: Julie Phipps, 47 Cotswold Avenue, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6DP, England.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS! A new SW zine with a mid-Atlantic flavor (hopefully!) is now open for submissions. Looking for fiction, articles, poetry, filks, art and misc. items. G to R rating. No slash/same sex. Already featuring Schuller, Florian, Dutech, Wilson, Campbell and Turner, plus some excellent new talent! Art by Crotty, Florian. New writers and artists welcome! (Hello, Europe, are you there?) Catriona Campbell/Louise Turner c/o 19 Eastern Crescent, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 6JH, Scotland.

JUNIOR'S PLAYGROUND. This is to be a one-shot zine devoted entirely to fan fiction based on *War of the Worlds'* second season. Because I am uncertain how great the response will be for this project, submission deadline is currently left open. Write for more details on what I'm looking for. This is to be an independent project. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Rd #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

MY NAME AIN'T MARY SUE #3. The zine with a different perspective on the subject of original characters is currently seeking submissions of fiction, LoCs, artwork, and articles for its third issue. Tentative submission deadline for issue #3 is Nov. 30, 1993. If you've got a great story featuring a strong original character, then it's time you had a chance to tell it! Write for more info. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

MY NAME AIN'T MARY SUE: SPECIAL GAY/LESBIAN ISSUE. We're currently seeking stories featuring gay and lesbian Mary Sues for a special one-time issue. Note: This is *not* a slash project! We are looking for the same kind of innovative and thought-provoking characters and plot-lines that are the standard for every issue of NMAMS. If you are interested in contributing, drop a line for further info. For now, deadline is open. SASE Julie Evans, 2112

Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

ONLY HOPE #1. New U.S./Canadian Luke zine for debut issue February, 1994. No Han starring, slash or cross-over. Fiction, art, poetry wanted. For info, SASE Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Rd., N. Haverhill, NH 03744, or Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Road, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 1L6, Canada.

REMOTE CONTROL #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, filks, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SCARECROW'S DREAM. Genzine dedicated to exploring the many characters played by Bob Dowdell. Now accepting submissions -- do you have a story from *Stoney Burke* that needs a home? How about a *240-Robert*, *The Initiation*, *Skin Deep* or *Terror in the Sky*? The only requirement is that the story center on the character Bob played in the movie or TV episode. No gratuitous sex and no "I" situations will be accepted. Anticipating publication in May 1994, in time for MWC 14. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia. Calling all Leia fans! We are putting together a one-time fanzine filled with tales, poetry, art, songs, and essays from the mind and heart of everyone's favorite warrior princess. We seek Leia-oriented stories, poems, articles, and illustrations; they may be new or published before. No thrash jobs or pronography please -- this is a *celebration*. Publication date: May 1995. Submissions open until November 1, 1994. SASE: Yvette Ghilan, P. O. Box 1827, 52117 Ramat Gan, Israel, or Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

TATOOINE DREAMS. New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

TECHNOLOGICAL TERROR. A new zine from Lightspeed Press. The first electronic zine. Featuring "Rebirth", a comic by Jeff Smith. Stories by Linda Stoops and Jennie Jivan. Plus "SW-The Drinking Game", an interview with SW Echo moderator Skip Shayotovich, and reviews of upcoming novels and comics. Electronic version available on Macintosh

computers (Apple II and IBM versions available). Mac version includes sound clips and animation. Available in printed version also, approximately 100 pgs. Tentative release date: December 1993. Submission deadline: December 1, 1993. Guidelines are simple-- You make it, we take it. For more info, SASE Charyl Perry, 1274 Berkeley Rd., Columbus, OH 43206-3220. Voice: (614) 258-0157; AOL: Hooks; GENie: C.Perry3; Internet: hooks@aol.com; Prodigy: NBNK11A.

THE DARKEST SHADOW, BOOK I OF II. Kira Jo'hn, New Republic security advisor and last of the mysterious "Shadow Jedi", a splinter group of the Jedi brotherhood devoted to both the dark and the light sides of the Force, is captured by an Imperial Admiral obsessed with restoring the Empire. With time running out, Luke Skywalker rushes to save Kira from the Admiral and the powerful grip of the Dark Side! This riveting, novel-length SW adventure by Jonathan Cephas, is due for release in the Winter of 1993. Write now for further info! SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek piecees. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE FORCE'S LIGHT #2. Open for submissions. Please send long SASE to Ed Schodde, P.O. Box 10142, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0142.

THE ORMAND FACTOR. Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume Two to follow early in 1994.

THE REST OF THE GARBAGE. The X-Y-Z rated

SW zine. Tentative publishing date May 1995. Plain brown wrapper over color cover, hopefully. No taboos whatsoever. Contributions wanted: adult, mature, hot, erotic, fascinating, anything goes as long as the characters are in character. Prefer short to medium stories. Erotic poems, drawings, cartoons welcome. I accept anonymous contributions from shy people. In case of pen names, original names kept confidential. Sex in the stories not mandatory, excessive trashing also fits the profile. Slash is ok. I'm especially interested in explorations into the sex life of the various species, the clash (or match) of different cultures. Floppies or hard copy accepted. SASE Z. P. Florian, 6214 Waterway, Falls Church, VA 22044.

WE GOT ANOTHER ONE! Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'? is a new SW zine now looking for submissions. Stories, poetry and filks about Han Solo are being solicited. Stories may be set in any timeframe from pre-ANH to post-ROTJ. First draft submission deadline is November 1, 1993, with a MWC '94 publication date. SASE for information or submissions guidelines to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

YEARS OF FIELDWORK. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS -- Full color prints of the covers of *A Tremor in the Force* #5 and #6. TF#5 -- Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. TF#6 -- Luke by Melanie Guttierrez. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines of all fandoms--*V*, *UNCLE*, *ST*, *Beauty and Beast*, multi-media, you name it. For info on how we

operate, SASE Ming Wathne, Curator--Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN now available. Crouching wolf looking right at you, white ink on black shirts. Original art by Cheree Cargill. Sizes M-XXL. \$15.00 (\$16.00 XXL). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

LUKE & LEIA T-SHIRTS. Double portrait in original art by Cheree Cargill. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. Available in L, XL and XXL sizes. \$12.50 FC (\$13.50 XXL sizes). Please state first and second color preferences. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE T-SHIRTS. Only one left:

size Large, navy with design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$12.00 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

USED ZINE AND BOOK SALE. Books include *Georgette Heyer's England*, UK police series *The Bill*, UK Professionals novels and annuals. Zines include Dr. Who, SW, Miami Vice, B7, adult multi-media, ST and more. Reasonable prices. SASE to Bea Schmidt, PO Box 1076, Farmington, NM 87499-1076.

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Sue Zahn
632 S. Orchard St.
Madison, WI 53715



Gail Mihara and Denis "Wedge" Lawson

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

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